

To Front the Title of Part II.



CHARLES COTTON Esq.
From an Original Painting in the
Possession of Brooks Boothby Esq.

Lady Pines:

Myland

Pub.^d According to Act of Parliam^t 1759.

To Front the Title of Part II.



CHARLES COTTON Esq.
From an Original Painting in the
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Sally Pines:

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THE
COMPLETE ANGLER.

PART II.

BEING
INSTRUCTIONS how to ANGLE for
a TROUT or GRAYLING in a clear Stream.



*Qui mihi non credit, faciat licet ipse periculum:
Et fuerit scriptis æquior ille meis.*

LONDON. MDCCLXXXIV.

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S O M E
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
L I F E and W R I T I N G S
O F
CHARLES COTTON, Esq; *

CHARLES COTTON, Esq; was descended from an honourable family of the town and county of *Southampton*: his grandfather was Sir *George Cotton*, Knight, and his grandmother *Cassandra*, the heiress of a family named *Mac Williams*: the issue of their marriage were a daughter, named *Cassandra*, who died unmarried; and a son, named *Charles*, who settling at *Ovingden* in the county of *Suffex*, married *Olive*, the daughter of Sir *John Stanhope*, of *Elwaston* in the county of *Derby*, Knight, half brother to *Philip*, the first Earl of *Chesterfield*, and ancestor of the present earl of *Harrington*; and by her had issue *Charles*, the author of the ensuing Dialogues †.

* It has been thought proper to omit the letter to the editor in the former impression, and to give the life of Mr. Cotton in another form, retaining nevertheless such facts as are best ascertained, and seem in any degree worthy of credit.

† The above is the account of Mr. Cotton's descent, as given by Mr. Oldys, in the former edition; but it agrees not in what respects his being descended by the mother's side from the family of *Mac Williams*, with Collins's account of Sir *John Stanhope*, in his Peerage, under the article STANHOPE, Earl of *Chesterfield*.

OF

Of the elder *Charles* we learn from unquestionable authority, that he was even when young a person of distinguished parts and accomplishments; for in the enumeration of those eminent persons whom Mr. *Hyde*, afterwards the lord chancellor *Clarendon*, chose for his friends and associates, while a student of the law, we find Mr. *Cotton* mentioned, together with *Ben Jonson*, Mr. *Selden*, Mr. *John Vaughan*, afterwards lord chief justice, Sir *Kenelm Digby*, Mr. *Thomas May*, the translator of *Lucan*, and *Thomas Carew*, the poet. The characters of these several persons are exhibited with the usual elegance and accuracy of their author in the life of *Edward*, earl of *Clarendon*, written by himself, and lately published: that of Mr. *Cotton* here follows:

“ *CHARLES COTTON* was a gentleman born to a competent fortune, and so qualified in his person and education, that for many years he continued the greatest ornament of the town, in the esteem of those who had been best bred: his natural parts were very great, his wit flowing in all the parts of conversation; the superstructure of learning not raised to a considerable height, but having passed some years in *Cambridge*, and then in *France*, and conversing always with learned men, his expressions were ever proper and significant, and gave great lustre to his discourse upon any argument; so that he was thought by those who were not intimate with him, to have been much better acquainted with books than he was: he had all those qualities, which in youth raise men to the reputation of being fine gentlemen; such a pleasantness and gaiety of humour, such a sweetness and gentleness of nature, and such a civility and delightfulness in conversation, that no man, in the court or out of it, appeared a more accomplished person, all these extraordinary qualifications being supported by as extraordinary a clearness of courage and fearlessness of spirit, of which he gave too often manifestation. Some unhappy suits in law, and waste of his fortune in those suits, made
“ some

“ some impression on his mind, which being improved
 “ by domestic afflictions, and those indulgences to him-
 “ self which naturally attend those afflictions, rendered
 “ his age less revered than his youth had been, and
 “ gave his best friends cause to have wished that he
 “ had not lived so long.”

The younger Mr. *Cotton* was born on the 28th day of *April*, 1630, and, having, as we must suppose, received such a school education as qualified him for an university, he was sent to *Cambridge*, where also his father had studied: he had for his tutor Mr. *Ralph Rawson*, once a fellow of *Brazen-nose* college, *Oxford*, but who had been ejected from his fellowship by the parliament visitors, in 1648. This person he has gratefully celebrated in a translation of an ode of *Johannes Secundus*.

What was the course of his studies; whether they tended to qualify him for either of the learned professions, or to furnish him with those endowments of general learning and polished manners which are requisite in the character of a gentleman, we know not: it is however certain, that in the university he improved his knowledge of the *Greek* and *Roman* classics, and became a perfect master of the *French* and *Italian* languages.

But whatever were the views of his father in placing him at *Cambridge*, we find not that he betook himself in earnest to the pursuit of any lucrative profession; it is true, that in a poem of his writing he hints that he had a smattering of the law, which he had gotten

— *More by practice than reading;
 By sitting o' th' bench * while others were pleading.*

But it is rather probable, that, returning from the university to his father's, he addicted himself to the lighter kinds of study, and the improvement of a talent in poetry, of which he found himself possessed; and also

* Probably, in his more advanced years, at sessions, as a justice of the peace in his county.

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that

that he might travel abroad, for in one of his poems * he says he had been at *Roan*. His father having married a lady of a *Derbyshire* family, and she being the daughter and heiress of *Edward Beresford*, of *Beresford* and *Enson* in *Staffordshire*, and of *Bently* in the county of *Derby*, it may be presumed that the descent of the family seat at *Beresford* to her, might have been the inducement with her husband to remove, with his family, from their first settlement at *Ovingden* to *Beresford*, a village near the *Peak* in *Derbyshire*, and in the neighbourhood of the *Dove*, a river that divides the counties of *Derby* and *Stafford*, and of which the reader will be told so much hereafter.

And here we may suppose the younger Mr. *Cotton*, tempted by the vicinity of a river plentifully stored with fish of the best kinds, to have chosen angling for his recreation; and, looking upon it to be, what *Walton* rightly terms it, *an art*, to have applied himself to the improvement of that branch of it, fishing with an artificial fly: to this end he made himself acquainted with the nature of aquatic insects, with the forms and colours of the several flies that are found on or near rivers, the times of their appearance and departure, and the methods of imitating them with furs, silks, feathers and other materials; in all which researches he exercised such patience, industry, and ingenuity, and succeeded so well, that having in the following dialogues communicated to the public the result of his experience, he must be deemed the great improver of this elegant recreation, and a benefactor to his posterity.

There is reason to think, that after his leaving the university, he was received into his father's family; for we are told that his father, being a man of bright parts, gave him themes and authors whereon to exercise his judgment and learning, even to the time of his entering into the state of matrimony †; the first fruit of which exercises was, as it seems, his elegy on the gallant lord *Derby* ‡.

* *The Wonders of the Peak.* † *Oldys's life*, xii. ‡ *Ibid.*

In 1656, being then twenty-six years of age; and before any patrimony had descended to him or he had any visible means of subsisting a family, he married a distant relation, *Isabella*, daughter of Sir *Thomas Hutchinson*, of *Owthorp*, in the county of *Nottingham*, Knt. * The distress in which this step might have involved him, was averted by the death of his father in 1658, an event that put him into the possession of the family estate; but, from the character of his father, as given by lord *Clarendon*, it cannot be supposed but that it was struggling with law-suits, and laden with incumbrances.

The great lord *Falkland* was wont to say, that he pitied unlearned gentlemen in rainy weather: Mr. *Cotton* might possibly entertain the same sentiment, for in this situation we find, that his employments were, study, for his delight and improvement, and fishing, for his recreation and health; for each of which several employments, we may suppose he chose the fittest times and seasons.

In 1663 he published the *Moral Philosophy of the Stoics*, translated from the French of Monsieur de *Vaix*, president of the parliament of *Provence*; in obedience, as the preface informs us, to a command of his father, doubtless with a view to his improvement in the science of morality; and this notwithstanding the book had been translated by Dr. *James*, the first keeper of the *Bodleian* library, above threescore years before.

His next publication was *Scarronides*, or *Virgil travestie*, being the first book of *Virgil's Æneis*, in English burlesque, 8vo. 1664, concerning which, and also the fourth book, translated by him, and afterwards published, it may be sufficient to say, that for degrading sublime poetry into doggrel, *Scarron's* example is no authority; and that, were the merit of this practice greater than many men think it, those who admire the wit, the humour, and the learning of *Hudibras*, cannot but be disgusted at the low buffoonery, the forced wit,

* *Oldys's* life, xlii.

and the coarseness and obscenity of the *Virgil travestie*; and yet the poem has its admirers, is commended by Sir John Suckling, in his *Session of the Poets*, and has passed fourteen editions.

To say the truth, the absurdity of that species of the mock epic, which gives to princes the manners of the lowest of their inferiors, has never been sufficiently noticed: in the instance before us how is the poet embarrassed, when he describes *Dido* as exercising regal authority, and at the same time employed in the meanest of domestic offices! and *Aeneas*, a person of royal descent, as a clown, a commander, and a common sailor! In the other kind of burlesque, viz. where the characters are elevated, no such difficulty interposes: grant but to *Don Quixote* and *Sancho*, to *Hudibras* and *Ralpho*, the stations which *Cervantes* and *Butler* have respectively assigned them, and all their actions are consistent with their several characters.

Soon after he engaged in a more commendable employment, a translation of the *History of the Life of the Duke d'Espernon*, from 1598, where *D'Avila's* history ends, to 1642, in twelve books; in which undertaking he was interrupted by an appointment to some place or post, which he hints at in the preface, but did not hold long; as also by a sickness that delayed the publication until 1670, when the book came out in a folio volume, with a handsome dedication to Dr. *Gilbert Sheldon*, archbishop of *Canterbury*.

In the same year, being the fortieth of his age, and having been honoured with a captain's commission in the army, he was drawn by some occasion, of business or interest to visit *Ireland*; which event he has recorded, with some particular circumstances touching the course of his life, in a burlesque poem, called *A Voyage to Ireland*, carelessly written, but abounding in humorous description, as will appear by the following extract therefrom:

*A guide I had got, who demanded great vails
For conducting me over the mountains of Wales;*

Twenty

Twenty good shillings which sure very large is,
 Yet that would not serve but I must bear his charges;
 And yet for all that rode astride on a beast
 The worst that e'er went on three legs I protest:
 It certainly was the most ugly of jades,
 His hips and his rump made a right ace of spades.
 His sides were two ladders, well spur-gall'd withal,
 His neck was a helve, and his head was a mall:
 For his colour my pains and your trouble I'll spare,
 For the creature was wholly denuded of hair;
 And except for two things as bare as my nail,
 A tuft of a mane, and a sprig of a tail.
 Now such as the beast was even such was the rider,
 With a head like a nutmeg and legs like a spider;
 A voice like a cricket, a look like a rat,
 The brains of a goose, and the heart of a cat:
 Even such was my guide and his beast; let them pass,
 The one for a horse and the other an ass.

In this poem he relates, with singular pleasantry, that at *Chester*, coming out of church, he was taken notice of by the mayor of the city for his rich garb; and particularly a gold belt that he then wore, and by him invited home to supper, and very hospitably entertained.

In the same year, and also the year after more correctly, he published a translation of the tragedy, entitled, *Les Horaces*, i. e. the *Horatii*, from the *French* of *Pierre Corneille*; and in 1674 the *Fair One of Tunis*, a novel, translated also from the *French*, as also a translation of the *Commentaries* of *Blaise de Montluc*, marshal of *France*, a thrasonical gascon, as lord *Herbert* has shewn in his *History of Hen. VIII.* far better skilled in the arts of flight than of battle.

In 1675 Mr. *Cotton* published two little books, *The Planter's Manual*, being instructions for cultivating all sorts of fruit-trees, 8vo. and a burlesque of sundry select dialogues of *Lucian*, with the title of *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, or the Scoffer scoffed, 12mo. which has much the same merit as the *Virgil travestie*.

Angling having been the favourite recreation of Mr.

Cotton for many years before this, we cannot but suppose that the publication of such a book as the *Complete Angler* of Mr. *Walton* had attracted his notice, and probably excited in him a desire to become acquainted with the author; and that setting aside other circumstances, the advantageous situation of Mr. *Cotton*, near the finest Trout-river in the kingdom, might conduce to beget a great intimacy between them; for certain it is, that by the year 1676 they were united by the closest ties of friendship: *Walton*, as also his son, had been frequent visitants to Mr. *Cotton* at *Beresford*, who, for the accommodation of the former, no less than of himself, had erected a fishing-house on the bank of the river, with a stone in the front thereof, containing a cypher that incorporated the initials of both their names.

These circumstances, together with a formal adoption by *Walton* of Mr. *Cotton* for his son, that will be explained in its place*, were doubtless the inducements with the latter to the writing of a second part of the *Complete Angler*, and therein to explain more fully the art of fishing either with a natural or an artificial fly, as also the various methods of making the latter: the book, as the author assures us, was written in the short space of ten days, and first came abroad with the fifth edition of the first part in the above year 1676; and ever since, the two parts have been considered as one book.

The second part of the *Complete Angler*, is apparently an imitation of the first: it is a course of dialogues between the author, shadowed under the name of *Piscator*, and a Traveller, the very person distinguished in the first part by the name of *Venator*, and whom *Walton* of a Hunter had made an Angler†; in which, besides the instructions there given, and the beautiful scenery of a wild and romantic country therein displayed, the urbanity, courtesy, and hospitality of a well-bred country gentleman, are represented to great advantage.

This book might be thought to contain a delineation of the author's character, and dispose the reader to

* *Viz.* in a note on a passage in the first chapter of this second part of the *Complete Angler*.

† *Vide* Part II. Chap. I.

think that he was delighted with his situation, content with his fortunes, and in short one of the happiest of men; but his next publication speaks a very different language; for, living in a country that abounds above all others in this kingdom in rocks, caverns and subterraneous passages; objects that to some minds afford more delight than stately woods and fertile plains, rich inclosures, and other the milder beauties of rural nature, he seems to have been prompted by no other than a *jullen curiosity* to explore the secrets of that nether world; and surveying it rather with wonder than philosophical delight, to have given way to his disgust, in a description of the dreary and terrific scenes around and beneath him, in a poem written, as it is said, in emulation of *Hobbes's De mirabilibus Pecci*, entitled *The Wonders of the Peak*: this he first published in 1681, and afterwards with a new edition of the *Virgil travestie* and the burlesque of *Lucian*.

The only praise of this poem, is the truth of the representations therein contained; for it is a mean composition, inharmonious in the versification, and abounding in expletives. Of the spirit in which it is written, a judgment may be formed from the following lines, part of the *exordium*:

*Durst I expostulate with Providence,
I then should ask wherein the innocence
Of my poor undesigning infancy,
Could Heav'n offend to such a black degree,
As for th' offence to damn me to a place
Where nature only suffers in disgrace.*

and these other equally splenetic:

*Environ'd round with nature's shames and ills,
Black heaths, wild rocks, black crags and naked hills.*

So far was Mr. Cotton from thinking with the Psalmist, "that his lot was fallen in a fair ground, or that he had "a goodly heritage."

But a greater, and to the world a more beneficial employment at this time solicited his attention: the old translation of *Montaigne's Essays*, by the resolute *John Florio*, as he styled himself, was become obsolete, and the world were impatient for a new one: Mr. *Cotton* not only understood *French* with a critical exactness, but was well acquainted with the almost barbarous dialect in which that book is written: and the freedom of opinion and general notions of men and things, which the author discovers, perhaps falling in with Mr. *Cotton's* sentiments of human life and manners, he undertook, and in 1685 gave to the world, in a translation of that author in three volumes 8vo. one of the most valuable books in the *English* language; in short, a translation, that if it does not, and many think it does in some respects, transcend, is yet nothing inferior to the original; and indeed, little less than this is to be inferred from the testimony of the noble marquis to whom it is dedicated, who concludes a letter of his to Mr. *Cotton* with this elegant encomium: "Pray believe, that he
 " who can translate such an author, without doing
 " him wrong, must not only make me glad, but proud
 " of being his very humble servant, HALIFAX."

These are the whole of Mr. *Cotton's* writings published in his life-time: those that came abroad after his decease, were *Poems on several Occasions*, 8vo. 1689. A bookseller's publication tumbled into the world without preface, apology, or even correction, that will be spoken of hereafter; and a translation from the *French* of the *Memoirs of the Sieur de Pontis*, published in 1694, by his son, Mr. *Beresford Cotton*, and by him dedicated to the then duke of *Ormond*, as having been undertaken and completed at the request of the old duke, his grace's grandfather.

It is too much to be feared, that the difficulties he laboured under, and in short the straitness of his circumstances, were the reasons that induced Mr. *Cotton* to employ himself in writing, and in that, so much more in translation than original composition; for first, b
 the way, they are greatly mistaken who think that th
 business

business of writing for booksellers is a new occupation; it is known that *Greene*, *Peacham*, and *Howel*, for a great part of their lives subsisted almost wholly by it; though perhaps *Mr. Cotton* is the first instance of a gentleman by descent, and the inheritor of a fair estate, being reduced by a sad necessity to write for subsistence. But secondly, whether through misfortune, or the want of œconomy, or both, it may be collected from numberless passages in his writings, that *Mr. Cotton's* circumstances were narrow, his estates incumbered with mortgages, and his income less than sufficient for his maintenance in the port and character of a gentleman; why else those querulous exclamations against the *clamours of creditors*, the *high rate of interest*, and the *extortions of usurers*, that so frequently occur in his poems? From which several particulars it seems a natural, and at the same time a melancholy inference, that he was, not to say an author, a *translator*; probably for hire, but certainly by *profession*.

It is of all employments one of the most painful, to enumerate the misfortunes and sufferings of worthy and deserving men; and most so, of such as have been distinguished for either their natural or acquired endowments: but truth, and the laws of biographic history, oblige all that undertake that kind of writing, to relate as well the *adverse* as the *prosperous* events in the lives of those whom they mean to celebrate; else we would gladly omit to say, that *Mr. Cotton* was, during the whole of his life involved in difficulties: *Lord Clarendon* says of his father, that he was *engaged in law-suits*, and had *wasted his fortune*; and it cannot be supposed but that his son inherited, in some degree, the vexation and expence of uncertain litigation, together with the paternal estate; and might finally be divested of great part of it: farther we may suppose, that the easiness of his nature, and a disposition to oblige others amounting even to *imbecility*, laid him open to the arts of designing men, and gave occasion to those complaints of *ingratitude* and *neglect* which we meet with in his eclogues, odes, and other of his writings.

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It is true, that he was never reduced by necessity to alienate the family estate, nor were his distresses uniformly extreme, but they were at times *severely pungent*: it is said, that the numerous pecuniary engagements into which he had entered, drew on him the misfortune of personal restraint; and that during his *confinement* in one of the city prisons, he inscribed on the wall of his apartment therein these affecting lines:

*A prison is a place of care,
Wherein no one can thrive;
A touchstone sure to try a friend,
A grave for men alive.*

And to aggravate these his afflictions he had a wife, whom he appears to have tenderly loved, and of whom, in an ironical poem, entitled *The Joys of Marriage*, he speaks thus handsomely:

*Yet with me 'tis out of season
To complain thus without reason,
Since the best and sweetest fair
Is allotted to my share.
But alas! I love her so,
That my love creates my woe;
For if she be out of humour,
Straight displeas'd I do presume her,
And would give the world to know
What it is offends her so;
Or if she be discontented,
Lord, how am I then tormented!
And am ready to persuade her,
That I have unhappy made her;
But if sick, then I am dying,
Meat and medicine both defying.*

This lady, the delight of his heart and the partner of his sorrows, he had the misfortune to lose; but at what period of his life is not certain.

We might flatter ourselves that his sun set brighter than it rose, for his second marriage, which was with the countess dowager of *Ardglas*, who possessed a jointure of fifteen hundred a year, and survived him, might suggest a hope that he might have been thereby enabled to extricate himself out of the greatest of his difficulties, and in reality to enjoy that tranquillity of mind which he describes with so much feeling in the *Stanzas irreguliers*; but this supposition seems to be contradicted by a fact, which the act of administration of his effects upon his decease discloses, viz. that the same was granted "to *Elizabeth Bludworth*, his principal creditrix, the honourable *Mary* countess dowager of *Ardglas*, his widow; *Beresford Cotton*, Esq; *Olive Cotton*, *Catherine Cotton*, *Jane Cotton* and *Mary Cotton*, his natural and lawful children, first renouncing."

The above act bearing date the 12th day of *September*, 1687, fixes, perhaps, within a few days, the day of his death, and describes him as having lived in the parish of *St. James, Westminster*: it also ascertains his issue, which were all by his first lady.

There is a tradition current in his neighbourhood, that he had, by some sarcastic expression in his writings, so offended an aunt of his, that she revoked a clause in her will, whereby she had bequeathed to him an estate of five hundred pounds a year; but as two unlikely circumstances must concur to render such a report credible, *great imprudence* in himself, and *want of charity* in her; and there is no such offensive passage to be found in any of his writings, we may presume the tradition to be groundless.

Of the future fortunes of his descendants little is known, save that to his son *Beresford Cotton*, was given a company in a regiment of foot, raised by the earl of *Derby*, for the service of king *William*; and that one of his daughters became the wife of that eminent divine *Dr. George Stanhope*, dean of *Canterbury*; who from his name, the same with that of *Mr. Cotton's* mother, is conjectured to have been distantly allied to the family.

The

The above are the most remarkable particulars that at this time are recoverable of the life of Mr. *Cotton*. His moral character is to be collected, and indeed does naturally arise, out of the several sentiments contained in his writings, more especially those in the collection of his poems above-mentioned; which, consisting of all such verses of his as the publishers could get together, as namely, eclogues, odes and epistles to his friends; and translations from *Ausonius*, *Catullus*, *Martial*, *Monf. Maynard*, *Corneille*, *Benferade*, *Guarini*, and others, if perused with a severe and indiscriminating eye may, perhaps, be thought to reflect no great credit on his memory; for many of them are so inexcusably licentious as to induce a suspicion, that the author was but too well practised in the *vices of the town*; and yet it may be said of the book, that it contains the only good poems he ever wrote.

It is true, that for the looseness of his writings, and, if we may judge by them, of his manners he deserves censure; but at the same time it is to be noted, that he was a *warm and steady friend*, and a lover of such as he thought more worthy than himself; of which last quality, his attachment to Mr. *Walton* affords the clearest proof.

Nor did it derogate from the character of honest old *Isaac*, to contract and cherish an intimacy with one, who being of the cavalier party, might have somewhat of the *gallant*, not to say the *rake* in him, and be guilty of some of those practices which it was the employment of *Isaac's* life and writings to discountenance. Mr. *Cotton* was both a *wit* and a *scholar*; of an *open*, *cheerful* and *hospitable* temper, endowed with *fine talents for conversation*, and the *courtesy* and *affability* of a gentleman; and was withal as great a proficient in the art, as a lover of the recreation of *angling*; these qualities, together with the profound reverence which he uniformly entertained for his father *Walton*, could not but endear him to the good old man, whose charitable practice it was, to resolve all the deviations from that rule

rule of conduct which he had prescribed himself, not into vicious inclination but error.

But notwithstanding this creditable connexion, and the qualities above ascribed to him, Mr. Cotton's moral character must appear very ambiguous to any one, that shall reflect on the subjects by him chosen for the exercise of his poetical talent: a burlesque of an epic poem, a version of the most licentious of *Lucian's* dialogues, and a ludicrous delineation of some of the most stupendous works of nature; in all which we meet with such foul imagery, such obscene allusions, such offensive descriptions, such odious comparisons, such coarse sentiment, and such filthy expression, as could only proceed from a polluted imagination, and tend to excite loathing and contempt.

On the other hand, there are in his poems on several occasions, verses to ladies in particular, of so courtly and elegant a turn, that, bating their incorrectness, might vie with many of *Waller* and *Cowley*; others there are that bespeak him to have had a just sense of honour, loyalty, and moral rectitude, as do these that follow, penned by him with a view to preserve the memory of a deceased friend*.

*Virtue in those good times that bred good men,
No testimony crav'd of tongue or pen;
No marble columns nor engraven brass
To tell the world that such a person was;
For then each pious act to fair descent
Stood for the worthy owner's monument;
But in this change of manners and of states,
Good names, though writ in marble, have their fates;
Such is the barb'rous and irrev'rent rage
That arms the rabble of this impious age.*

*Yet may this happy stone that bears a name
(Such as no bold survivor dares to claim)*

* On a monument of *Robert Port, Esq;* in the church of *Ilam*, in the county of *Stafford*.

*To ages yet unborn, unblemish'd stand,
 Safe from the stroke of an inhuman hand.
 Here, reader, here a Port's sad relics lie
 To teach the careless world mortality;
 Who, while he mortal was, unrivall'd stood,
 The crown and glory of his ancient blood;
 Fit for his prince's and his country's trust;
 Pious to God, and to his neighbour just;
 A loyal husband to his latest end,
 A gracious father and a faithful friend:
 Below'd he liv'd, and died o'ercharg'd with years
 Fuller of honour than of silver hairs;
 And, to sum up his virtues, this was he,
 Who was what all we should, but cannot be.*

To this it may be added, that in sundry parts of his writings, and even in his poems, the evidences of piety in the author are discernible; among them is a paraphrase on that noble and sublime hymn, the eighth psalm; and in the poem entitled *Stanzas irreguliers*, are the following lines:

*Dear solitude, the soul's best friend,
 That man acquainted with himself doft make,
 And all his Maker's wonders to intend,
 With thee I here converse at will,
 And would be glad to do so still,
 For it is thou alone that keep'st the soul awake.*

And lastly, in the following book, he, in the person of *Piscator*, thus utters his own sentiment of a practice which few that love fishing, and have not a sense of decorum, not to say of religion, would in these days of licence forbear: "A worm is so sure a bait at all times that, excepting in a flood, I would I had laid [me] a thousand pounds that I did not kill fish, more or less, with it, winter or summer, every day in the year; those days always excepted, that upon a more serious account always ought so to be:"* from whence it is but just to infer, that the delight he took

in fishing was never a temptation with him to *profane the sabbath*.

The inconsistencies above pointed out we leave the perusers of his various writings to reconcile; with this remark, that he must have possessed a mind well stored with ideas, and habituated to reflection, who could write such verses as immediately follow this account, and in many respects have been an amiable man, whom *Walton* could choose for his *friend*, and adopt for his *son*.

J. H.

CONTENTATION, directed to my dear father
and most worthy friend, Mr. Isaac Walton.

I.

Heav'n, what an age is this! what race
Of giants is sprung up that dare
Thus fly in the Almighty's face,
And with his providence make war!

II.

I can go no where but I meet
With malecontents and mutineers,
As if in life was nothing sweet,
And we must blessings reap in tears.

III.

O senseless man! that murmurs still
For happiness, and does not know,
Even though he might enjoy his will,
What he would have to make him so.

IV.

Is it true happiness to be
By undiscerning fortune plac'd
In the most eminent degree,
Where few arrive, and none stand fast?

V.

Titles and wealth are fortune's toils
Wherewith the vain themselves ensnare;
The great are proud of borrow'd spoils;
The miser's plenty breeds his care.

VI.

*The one supinely yawns to rest,
Th' other eternally doth toil;
Each of them equally a beast,
A pamper'd horse, or lab'ring moulk*

VII.

*The titulado's oft disgrac'd
By public base, or private frown:
And he whose hand the creature rais'd;
Has yet a foot to kick him down.*

VIII.

*The drudge who would all get, all save,
Like a brute beast both feeds and lies;
Prone to the earth he digs his grave,
And in the very labour dies.*

IX.

*Excess of ill got, ill kept pelf,
Does only death and danger breed;
Whilst one rich worldling starves (himself,
With what would thousand others feed.*

X.

*By which we see that wealth and power,
Although they make men rich and great,
The sweets of life do often sour,
And gull ambition with a cheat.*

XI.

*Nor is he happier than those,
Who in a moderate estate,
Where he might safely live at ease,
Has lusts that are immoderate.*

XII.

*For he by those desires misled,
Quits his own vine's securing shade,
T' expose his naked, empty head
To all the storms man's peace invade.*

XIII.

*Nor is he happy who is trim,
Trickt up in favours of the fair;
Mirrors, with ev'ry breath made dim,
Birds caught in ev'ry wanton snare.*

XIV.

*Woman, man's greatest woe or bliss,
Does ofter far, than serve, enslave,
And with the magic of a kiss,
Destroys whom she was made to save.*

XV.

*Oh fruitful grief! the world's disease,
And vainer man to make it so,
Who gives his miseries increase,
By cultivating his own woe.*

XVI.

*There are no ills but what we make,
By giving shapes and names to things,
Which is the dangerous mistake
That causes all our sufferings.*

XVII.

*We call that sickness which is health,
That persecution which is grace,
That poverty which is true wealth,
And that dishonour which is praise.*

XVIII.

*Providence watches over all,
And that with an impartial eye;
And if to misery we fall,
'Tis through our own infirmity.*

XIX.

*'Tis want of foresight makes the bold
Ambitious youth to danger climb;
And want of virtue when the old
At persecution do repine.*

XX.

*Alas! our time is here so short,
That in what state soe'er 'tis spent
Of joy or woe does not import
Provided it be innocent.*

XXI.

*But we may make it pleasant too,
If we will take our measures right,
And not what heav'n has done undo
By an unruly appetite.*

XXII.

'Tis contentation that alone
 Can make us happy here below,
 And when this little life is gone,
 Will lift us up to heav'n too.

XXIII.

A very little satisfies
 An honest and a grateful heart;
 And who would more than will suffice,
 Does covet more than is his part.

XXIV.

That man is happy in his share,
 Who is warm clad, and cleanly fed;
 Whose necessaries bound his care,
 And honest labour makes his bed.

XXV.

Who free from debt, and clear from crimes,
 Honours those laws that others fear;
 Who ill of princes in worst times,
 Will neither speak himself nor bear.

XXVI.

Who from the busy world retires
 To be more useful to it still,
 And to no greater good aspires,
 But only the eschewing ill.

XXVII.

Who with his angle and his books
 Can think the longest day well spent,
 And praises God when back he looks,
 And finds that all was innocent.

XXVIII.

This man is happier far than he,
 Whom public business oft betrays,
 Through labyrinths of policy
 To crooked and forbidden ways.

XXIX.

The world is full of beaten roads,
 But yet so slippery withal,
 That where one walks secure, 'tis odds
 A hundred and a hundred fall.

Untrodden

XXX.

*Untrodden paths are then the best,
When the frequented are unsure;
And he comes soonest to his rest
Whose journey has been most secure.*

XXXI.

*It is content alone that makes
Our pilgrimage a pleasure here;
And who buys sorrow cheapest takes
An ill commodity too dear.*

XXXII.

*But he has fortune's worst withstood,
And happiness can never miss;
Can covet nought but where he stood,
And thinks him happy where he is.*



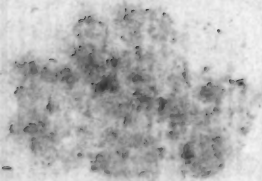
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To my most Worthy

FATHER * and FRIEND,

Mr. IZAAK WALTON,

The ELDER.

SIR,

BEING you were pleased, some years past, to grant me your free leave to do what I have here attempted; and observing you never retract any promise, when made in

* The reader will see the reason why *Cotton* calls *Walton* his father, in a subsequent note.

favour even of your meanest friends, I accordingly expect to see these following particular directions for the taking of a Trout, to wait upon your better and more general rules for all sorts of angling: and, though mine be neither so perfect, so well digested, nor indeed so handsomely coucht, as they might have been, in so long a time as since your leave was granted, yet I dare affirm them to be generally true: and they had appeared too in something a neater drefs, but that I was surprized with the sudden news of a sudden new edition of your *Complete Angler*; so that, having but a little more than ten days time to turn me in, and rub up my memory; for, in truth, I have not, in all this long time, though

though I have often thought on't, and almost as often resolved to go presently about it, I was forced upon the instant to scribble what I here present you: which I have also endeavoured to accommodate to your own method. And, if mine be clear enough for the honest brothers of the angle readily to understand, which is the only thing I aim at, then I have my end, and shall need to make no further apology; a writing of this kind not requiring, if I were master of any such thing, any eloquence to set it off, or recommend it: so that if you, in your better judgment, or kindness rather, can allow it passable, for a thing of this nature, you will then do me honour if the cypher, fixed and carved in the front of my

xxviii *The Epistle Dedicatory.*

little fishing-house, may be here explained: and to permit me to attend you in publick, who, in private, have ever been, am, and ever resolve to be,

S I R,

Your most affectionate Son,

*Berisford, 10th
of March, 1675-6.*

And Servant,

CHARLES COTTON.

TO



T O

My most HONOURED FRIEND,

CHARLES COTTON, Esq;

S I R,

YOU now see I have returned you your very pleasant and useful discourse of The Art of Fly-fishing, printed just as it was sent me: for I have been so obedient to your desires, as to endure all the praises you have ventured to fix upon me in it. And, when I have thanked you for them, as the effects of an undissembled love; then, let me tell you, Sir, that I will really endeavour to live up to the character you have given of me, if there were no other reason, yet for this alone, that you, that love me so well, and always think what you speak, may not, for my sake, suffer by a mistake in your judgment.

And, Sir, I have ventured to fill a part of your margin, by way of paraphrase, for the reader's clearer understanding the situation, both of your fishing-house, and the pleasantness of that you dwell in. And I have ventured also to give him a copy of verses that you were pleased to send me, now some years past, in which he may see a good picture of both; and so much of your own mind too, as will make any reader, that is blest with a generous soul, to love you the better. I confess, that for doing this you may justly judge me too bold; if you do, I will say so too; and
so

[xxx]

*so far commute for my offence, that, though I be more
than a hundred miles from you, and in the eighty-third
year of my age, yet I will forget both; and next month be-
gin a pilgrimage to beg your pardon; for I would die in
your favour, and till then will live,*

S I R,

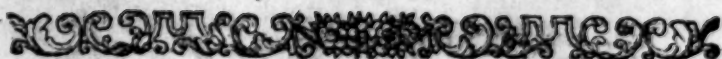
London,
April 29, 1676.

Your most affectionate

Father and Friend,

IZAACK WALTON.

THE



THE
RETIREMENT.

STANZES IRREGULIERS,

TO

Mr. IZAAK WALTON.

I.

FAREWELL, thou busy world, and may
We never meet again:
Here I can eat, and sleep, and pray,
And do more good in one short day,
Than he who his whole age out-wears
Upon the most conspicuous theatres,
Where nought but vanity and vice appears.

II.

Good God! how sweet are all things here!
How beautiful the fields appear!
How cleanly do we feed and lie!
Lord! what good hours do we keep?
How quietly we sleep!
What peace! what unanimity!
How innocent from the lewd fashion
Is all our business, all our recreation!

III. Oh,

III.

Oh, how happy here's our leisure!
 Oh, how innocent our pleasure!
 Oh, ye vallies, Oh, ye mountains!
 Oh, ye groves, and chrystal fountains!
 How I love at liberty,
 By turns to come and visit ye!

IV.

Dear solitude, the soul's best friend,
 That man acquainted with himself doft make;
 And all his Maker's wonder to intend,
 With thee I here converse at will,
 And would be glad to do so still,
 For it is thou alone that keep'st the soul awake.

V.

How calm and quiet a delight
 Is it, alone,
 To read, and meditate, and write,
 By none offended, and offending none!
 To walk, ride, sit, or sleep at one's own ease!
 And, pleasing a man's self, none other to displease.

VI.

Oh my beloved nymph, fair Dove!
 Princess of rivers! how I love
 Upon thy flow'ry banks to lie,
 And view thy silver stream,
 When gilded by a summer's beam!
 And in it all thy wanton fry,
 Playing at liberty:
 And with my angle upon them,
 The all of treachery
 I ever learnt, industriously to try.

VII. Such

VII.

*Such streams, Rome's yellow Tyber cannot show,
 The Iberian Tagus, or Ligurian Po;
 The Maese, the Danube, and the Rhine,
 Are puddle-water all compar'd with thine:
 And Loire's pure streams yet too polluted are
 With thine much purer to compare:
 The rapid Garonne, and the winding Seine,
 Are both too mean,
 Beloved Dove, with thee
 To vie priority:
 Nay, Tame and Isis, when conjoin'd, submit,
 And lay their trophies at thy silver feet.*

VIII.

*Oh my beloved rocks, that rise
 To awe the earth and brave the skies:
 From some aspiring mountain's crown,
 How dearly do I love,
 Giddy with pleasure to look down:
 And from the vales to view the heights above!
 Oh my beloved caves! from dog-star's heat,
 And all anxieties, my safe retreat:
 What safety, privacy, what true delight,
 In the artificial night,
 Your gloomy entrails make,
 Have I taken, do I take!
 How oft when grief has made me fly
 To hide me from society,
 Ev'n of my dearest friends, have I
 In your recesses friendly shade,
 All my sorrows open laid,
 And my most secret woes intrusted to your privacy!*

IX.

*Lord! would men let me alone,
 What an over-happy one
 Should I think myself to be,
 Might I in this desert place,
 Which most men in discourse disgrace,
 Live but undisturb'd and free!*

Here

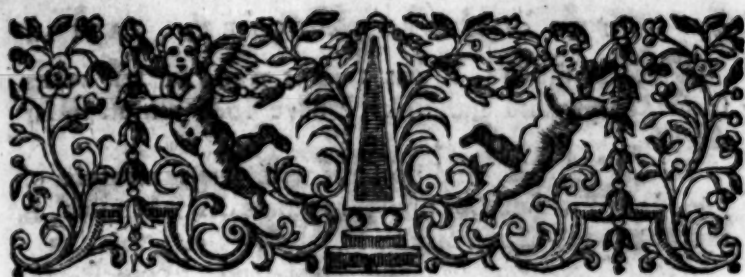
*Here in this despis'd recess,
 Would I, manure winter's cold,
 And the summer's worst excess,
 Try to live out to sixty full years old*
 And all the while,
 Without an envious eye,
 On any thriving under fortune's smile,
 Contented live, and then contented die.*

C. C.

* This he did not, for he was born in 1630, and died in 1687.
 See the account of his life prefixed.



THE



THE
COMPLETE ANGLER:
OR THE
Contemplative Man's Recreation.

PART II.

CHAP. I.

PISCATOR JUNIOR, and VIATOR.

PISCATOR.

YOU are happily overtaken, Sir; may a man be so bold as to enquire how far you travel this way?

Viator. Yes sure, Sir, very freely; though it be a question I cannot very well resolve you, as not knowing myself how far it is to *Ashborn*, where I intend to-night to take up my inn.

Piscat. Why then, Sir, seeing I perceive you to be a stranger in these parts, I shall take upon me to inform you, that from the town you last came through, called *Brelsford**, it is five miles; and you are not yet above half a mile on this side.

* *Bralesford. Spelman's Villare.*

Viat.

Viat. So much ! I was told it was but ten miles from *Derby* ; and methinks I have rode almost so far already.

Piscat. O, Sir, find no fault with large measure of good land, which *Derbyshire* abounds in, as much as most counties of *England*.

Viat. It may be so ; and good land, I confess, affords a pleasant prospect : but by your good leave, Sir, large measure of foul way is not altogether so acceptable.

Piscat. True, Sir, but the foul way serves to justify the fertility of the soil, according to the proverb, " There is good land where there is foul way ; " and is of good use to inform you of the riches of the country you are come into, and of its continual travel and traffic to the country-town you came from ; which is also very observable by the fulness of its road, and the loaden horses you meet every where upon the way.

Viat. Well, Sir, I will be content to think as well of your country as you would desire ; and I shall have a great deal of reason both to think and to speak very well of you, if I may obtain the happiness of your company to the fore-mentioned place, provided your affairs lead you that way, and that they will permit you to slack your pace, out of complacency to a traveller utterly a stranger in these parts, and who am still to wander further out of my own knowledge.

Piscat. Sir, you invite me to my own advantage, and I am ready to attend you, my way lying through that town ; but my business, that is, my home, some miles beyond it : however, I shall have time enough to lodge you in your quarters, and afterwards to perform my own journey. In the mean time, may I be so bold as to enquire the end of your journey ?

Viat. 'Tis into *Lancashire*, Sir, and about some business of concern to a near relation of mine : for I assure you, I do not use to take so long journies as from *Essex*, upon the single account of pleasure.

Piscat. From thence, Sir ! I do not then wonder you should appear dissatisfied with the length of the miles,

miles, and the foulness of the way : though I am sorry you should begin to quarrel with them so soon ; for believe me, Sir, you will find the miles much longer, and the way much worse, before you come to your journey's end.

Viat. Why truly, Sir, for that I am prepared to expect the worst ; but methinks the way is mended, since I had the good fortune to fall into your good company.

Piscat. You are not obliged to my company for that ; but because you are already past the worst, and the greatest part of your way to your lodging.

Viat. I am very glad to hear it, both for the ease of myself and my horse ; but especially because I may then expect a freer enjoyment of your conversation ; though the shortness of the way will, I fear, make me lose it the sooner.

Piscat. That, Sir, is not worth your care ; and I am sure you deserve much better for being content with so ill company : but we have already talked away two miles of your journey ; for, from the brook before us, that runs at the foot of this sandy hill you have but three miles to *Ashborn*.

Viat. I meet every where in this country with these little brooks, and they look as if they were full of fish ; have they not Trouts in them ?

Piscat. That is a question which is to be excused in a stranger, as you are ; otherwise, give me leave to tell you, it would seem a kind of affront to our country to make a doubt of what we pretend to be famous for, next, if not before, our malt, wool, lead, and coal ; for you are to understand, that we think we have as many fine rivers, rivulets and brooks, as any country whatever ; and they are all full of Trouts, and some of them the best, it is said, by many degrees, in *England*.

Viat. I was first, Sir, in love with you ; and now shall be so enamoured of your country by this account you give me of it, as to wish myself a *Derbyshire* man, or at least that I might live in it : for you must know

I am a pretender to the angle, and, doubtless, a Trout affords the most pleasure to the angler of any sort of fish whatever; and the best Trouts must needs make the best sport: but this brook, and some others I have met with upon this way, are too full of wood for that recreation.

Piscat. This, Sir! why this, and several others like it, which you have past, and some that you are like to pass, have scarce any name amongst us: but we can shew you as fine rivers, and as clear from wood, or any other incumbrance to hinder an angler, as any you ever saw; and for clear beautiful streams, *Hants* itself, by Mr. *Isaac Walton's* good leave, can shew none such; nor I think any country in *Europe*.

Viat. You go far, Sir, in the praise of your country rivers, and I perceive have read Mr. *Walton's Complete Angler*, by your naming of *Hants*; and I pray what is your opinion of that book?

Piscat. My opinion of Mr. *Walton's* book is the same with every man's that understands any thing of the art of angling, that it is an excellent good one, and that the fore-mentioned gentleman understands as much of fish, and fishing, as any man living: but I must tell you further, that I have the happiness to know his person, and to be intimately acquainted with him, and in him to know the worthiest man, and to enjoy the best, and the truest friend any man ever had: nay, I shall yet acquaint you further, that he gives me leave to call him father, and I hope is not yet ashamed to own me for his adopted son*.

Viat.

* It was a practice with the pretended masters of the Hermetic science, to adopt favourite persons for their sons, to whom they imparted their secrets. *Ashmole*, in his Diary, p. 25. says, "Mr. *Backhouse* told me, I must now needs be his son, because he had communicated so many secrets to me." And, a little after, p. 27. "My father *Backhouse*, lying sick in *Fleet-street*, told me, in syllables, the true matter of the philosopher's stone, which he bequeathed to me as a legacy." See more of this practice, and of the tremendous solemnities with which the secret was communicated, in *Ashmole's* Theat. Chem. Brit. p. 440.

And,

Viat. In earnest, Sir, I am ravished to meet with a friend of Mr. *Isaac Walton's*, and one that does him so much right in so good and true a character; for I must boast to you, that I have the good fortune to know him too, and came acquainted with him much after the same manner I do with you; that he was my master, who first taught me to love angling, and then to become an angler; and to be plain with you, I am the very man deciphered in his book under the name of *Venator*; for I was wholly addicted to the chace, till he taught me as good, a more quiet, innocent, and less dangerous diversion.

Piscat. Sir, I think myself happy in your acquaintance, and before we part shall entreat leave to embrace you; you have said enough to recommend you to my best opinion: for my father *Walton* will be seen twice in no man's company he does not like, and likes none but such as he believes to be very honest men; which is one of the best arguments, or at least of the best testimonies I have, that I either am, or that he thinks me, one of those, seeing I have not yet found him weary of me.

Viat. You speak like a true friend, and in doing so render yourself worthy of his friendship. May I be so bold as to ask your name?

Piscat. Yes surely, Sir, and if you please a much nicer question; my name is ———, and I intend to stay long enough in your company, if I find you do not dislike mine, to ask your's too. In the mean time, because we are now almost at *Ashborn*, I shall freely and bluntly tell you, that I am a brother of the angle too, and, peradventure, can give you some instructions how to angle for a Trout in a clear river, that my father *Walton* himself will not disapprove, though he did either purposely omit, or did not remember

And, in imitation of this practice, *Ben Jonson* adopted several persons his sons, to the number of twelve or fourteen; among whom were, *Cartwright*, *Randolph*, and *Alexander Brome*; and it should seem by the text, that *Walton* followed the above-mentioned examples, by adopting *Cotton* for his son.

them, when you and he sat discoursing under the sycamore-tree *. And being you have already told me whither your journey is intended, and that I am better acquainted with the country than you are, I will heartily and earnestly entreat you will not think of staying at this town; but go on with me six miles further, to my house, where you shall be extremely welcome; it is directly in your way; we have day enough to perform our journey, and as you like your entertainment, you may there repose yourself a day or two, or as many more as your occasions will permit, to recompense the trouble of so much a longer journey.

Viat. Sir, you surprise me with so friendly an invitation upon so short acquaintance: but how advantageous soever it would be to me, and that my haste, perhaps, is not so great but it might dispense with such a divertisement as I promise myself in your company, yet I cannot, in modesty, accept your offer, and must therefore beg your pardon: I could otherwise, I confess, be glad to wait upon you, if upon no other account but to talk of Mr. *Isaac Walton*, and to receive those instructions you say you are able to give me for the deceiving a Trout; in which art I will not deny, but that I have an ambition to be one of the greatest deceivers; though I cannot forbear freely to tell you, that I think it hard to say much more than has been read to me upon that subject.

Piscat. Well, Sir, I grant that too; but you must know that the variety of rivers require different ways of angling: however, you shall have the best rules I am able to give, and I will tell you nothing I have not made myself as certain of, as any man can be in thirty years experience; for so long I have been a dabbler in that art; and that if you please to stay a few days, you shall in a very great measure see made good to you. But of that hereafter; and now, Sir, if I am not mistaken, I have half overcome you; and that I may wholly conquer that modesty of your's, I will take

* See Part I. Page 93.

upon me to be so familiar as to say, you must accept my invitation; which, that you may the more easily be persuaded to do, I will tell you that my house stands upon the margin of one of the finest rivers for Trouts and Grayling in *England*; that I have lately built a little fishing-house upon it, dedicated to anglers, over the door of which you will see the two first letters of my father *Walton's* name and mine twisted in cypher *; that you shall lie in the same bed he has sometimes been contented with, and have such country entertainment as my friends sometimes accept; and be as welcome too as the best friend of them all.

* As in the
Title-page.

Viat. No doubt, Sir, but my master *Walton* found good reason to be satisfied with his entertainment in your house; for you who are so friendly to a mere stranger, who deserves so little, must needs be exceeding kind and free to him who deserves so much.

Piscat. Believe me, no; and such as are intimately acquainted with that gentleman, know him to be a man, who will not endure to be treated like a stranger. So that his acceptance of my poor entertainments, has ever been a pure effect of his own humility and good-nature, and nothing else. But, Sir, we are now going down the *Spittle-hill* into the town; and therefore let me importune you suddenly to resolve, and most earnestly not to deny me.

Viat. In truth, Sir, I am so overcome by your bounty, that I find I cannot, but must render myself wholly to be disposed by you.

Piscat. Why that's heartily and kindly spoken, and I as heartily thank you; and being you have abandoned yourself to my conduct, we will only call and drink a glass on horseback at the *Talbot*, and away.

Viat. I attend you; but what pretty river is this, that runs under this stone-bridge? has it a name?

Piscat. Yes, it is called *Henmore*, and has in it both Trout and Grayling; but you will meet with one or two better anon. And so soon as we are past through the town, I will endeavour, by such discourse

as best likes you, to pass away the time till you come to your ill quarters.

Viat. We can talk of nothing with which I shall be more delighted than of rivers and angling.

Piscat. Let those be the subjects then; but we are now come to the *Talbot*; What will you drink, Sir, ale, or wine?

Viat. Nay, I am for the country liquor, *Derbyshire* ale, if you please; for a man should not, methinks, come from *London* to drink wine in the *Peak*.

Piscat. You are in the right; and yet let me tell you, you may drink worse *French* wine in many taverns in *London*, than they have sometimes at this house. What ho! bring us a flaggon of your best ale; and now, Sir, my service to you, a good health to the honest gentleman you know of, and you are welcome into the *Peak*.

Viat. I thank you, Sir, and present you my service again, and to all the honest brothers of the angle.

Piscat. I'll pledge you, Sir: so, there's for your ale, and farewell. Come, Sir, let us be going, for the sun grows low, and I would have you look about you as you ride; for you will see an odd country, and sights that will seem strange to you.

C H A P. II.

PISCATOR.

SO, Sir, now we have got to the top of the hill out of town, look about you, and tell me how you like the country.

Viat. Bless me, what mountains are here! are we not in *Wales*?

Piscat. No, but in almost as mountainous a country; and yet these hills, though high, bleak, and craggy, breed and feed good beef and mutton, above ground, and afford good store of lead within.

Viat.

Viat. They had need of all those commodities to make amends for the ill landskip: but I hope our way does not lie over any of these, for I dread a precipice.

Piscat. Believe me, but it does, and down one especially, that will appear a little terrible to a stranger: though the way is passable enough, and so passable, that we who are natives of these mountains, and acquainted with them, disdain to alight.

Viat. I hope, though, that a foreigner is privileged to use his own discretion, and that I may have the liberty to entrust my neck to the fidelity of my own feet, rather than to those of my horse, for I have no more at home.

Piscat. 'Twere hard else. But in the mean time, I think 'twere best, while this way is pretty even, to mend our pace, that we may be past that hill I speak of; to the end your apprehension may not be doubled, for want of light to discern the easiness of the descent.

Viat. I am willing to put forward as fast as my beast will give me leave, though I fear nothing in your company. But what pretty river is this we are going into?

Piscat. Why this, Sir, is called *Bently-brook*, and is full of very good Trout and Grayling; but so encumbered with wood in many places, as is troublesome to an angler.

Viat. Here are the prettiest rivers, and the most of them in this country that ever I saw; do you know how many you have in the country?

Piscat. I know them all, and they were not hard to reckon, were it worth the trouble, but the most considerable of them I will presently name you. And to begin where we now are, for you must know we are now upon the very skirts of *Derbyshire*; we have first the river *Dove*, that we shall come to by and by, which divides the two counties of *Derby* and *Stafford* for many miles together; and is so called from the swiftness of its current, and that swiftness occasioned by the declivity of its course, and by being so straitned in that course betwixt the rocks; by which, and those

very high ones, it is hereabout, for four or five miles, confined into a very narrow stream: a river that from a contemptible fountain, which I can cover with my hat, by the confluence of other rivers, rivulets, brooks, and rills, is swelled, before it falls into *Trent*, a little below *Eggington*, where it loses the name, to such a breadth and depth, as to be in most places navigable, were not the passage frequently interrupted with fords and wears, and has as fertile banks as any river in *England*, none excepted. And this river, from its head, for a mile or two, is a black water, as all the rest of the *Derbyshire* rivers of note originally are, for they all spring from the mosses; but is in a few miles travel, so clarified by the addition of several clear and very great springs, bigger than itself, which gush out of the lime-stone rocks, that before it comes to my house, which is but six or seven miles from its source, you will find it one of the purest crystaline streams you have seen.

Viat. Does *Trent* spring in these parts?

Piscat. Yes, in these parts; not in this county, but somewhere towards the upper end of *Staffordshire*, I think not far from a place called *Trentham*, and thence runs down not far from *Stafford* to *Wolfsy-bridge*, and washing the skirts and purlicus of the forest of *Needwood*, runs down to *Burton* in the same county; thence it comes into this where we now are, and running by *Swarkston* and *Dunnington*, receives *Derwent* at *Wildon*, and so to *Nottingham*, thence to *Newark*, and by *Gainsborough* to *Kingston upon Hull*, where it takes the name of *Humber*, and thence falls into the sea; but that the map will best inform you.

Viat. Know you whence this river *Trent* derives its name?

Piscat. No, indeed; and yet I have heard it often discours'd upon, when some have given its denomination from the fore-named *Trentham*, though that seems rather a derivative from it; others have said it is so called from thirty rivers that fall into it, and there lose their names; which cannot be neither, because it carries

carries that name from its very fountain, before any other rivers fall into it; others derive it from thirty several sorts of fish that breed there; and that is the most likely derivation: but be it how it will, it is doubtless one of the finest rivers in the world, and the most abounding with excellent Salmon, and all sorts of delicate fish.

Viat. Pardon me, Sir, for tempting you into this digression, and then proceed to your other rivers, for I am mightily delighted with this discourse.

Piscat. It was no interruption, but a very seasonable question; for *Trent* is not only one of our *Derbyshire* rivers, but the chief of them, and into which all the rest pay the tribute of their names; which I had, perhaps, forgot to insist upon, being got to the other end of the county, had you not awoke my memory. But I will now proceed; and the next river of note, for I will take them as they lie eastward from us, is the river *Wye*; I say of note, for we have two lesser betwixt us and it, namely, *Lathkin* and *Bradford*; of which *Lathkin* is, by many degrees, the purest and most transparent stream that I ever yet saw, either at home or abroad; and breeds, it is said, the reddest, and the best Trouts in *England*; but neither of these are to be reputed rivers, being no better than great springs. The river *Wye* then has its source near unto *Buxton*, a town some ten miles from hence, famous for a warm bath, and which you are to ride through in your way to *Manchester*; a black water too at the fountain, but by the same reason with *Dove*, becomes very soon a most delicate clear river, and breeds admirable Trout and Grayling, reputed by those, who, by living upon its banks are partial to it, the best of any; and this, running down by *Ashford*, *Bakewell*, and *Hadder*, at a town a little lower, called *Roussly*, falls into *Derwent*, and there loses its name*.

is

* By this it appears, that there two rivers in *England* that bear the name of *Wye*; the former *Wye*, occasionally mentioned, p. 124, 129, 133, and elsewhere in this work, has, as well as the *Severn*,

its

is *Derwent*, a black water too, and that not only from its fountain, but quite through its progress, not having these crystal springs to wash and cleanse it which the two forementioned have; but abounds with Trout and Grayling, such as they are, towards its source, and with Salmon below; and this river, from the upper and utmost part of this county, where it springs, taking its course by *Chatsworth*, *Darley*, *Matlock*, *Derby*, *Burrow-Ash*, and *Awberson*, falls into *Trent* at a place called *Wilton*, and there loses its name. The east side of this county of *Derby* is bounded by little inconsiderable rivers, as *Auwer*, *Eroways*, and the like, scarce worth naming, but trouty too; and further we are not to enquire. But, Sir, I have carried you, as a man may say, by water, till we are now come to the descent of the formidable hill I told you of, at the foot of which runs the river *Dove*, which I cannot but love above all the rest; and therefore prepare yourself to be a little frightened.

Viat. Sir, I see you would fortify me, that I should not shame myself; but I dare follow where you please to lead me, and I see no danger yet; for the descent, methinks, is thus far green, even, and easy.

Piscat. You will like it worse presently, when you come to the brow of the hill; and now we are there, what think you?

Viat. What do I think? Why I think it the strangest place that, ever sure, men and horses went

its head in the *Plinlimmon* hills, on the borders of *Montgomery* and *Cardiganshires*; from whence, as its Latin name, *Vaga*, imports, wandering through part of *Brecknockshire*, it, near the *Hay*, enters *Herefordshire*, and at *Mordiford*, within four miles of *Hereford*, receives the *Lug*; from thence, passing on to *Ross*, it enters *Monmouthshire*, and falls into the *Severn* below *Chepstow*.

It abounds with that small species of fish called *Last-springs*: for which see page 133; and also with *Grayling*.

And here it may be necessary to remark, that the names of *Avon*, *Ouse*, *Stoure*, and some others, are common to many rivers in *England*, as that of *Dulas* is to numbers in *Wales*. See notes on the *Polyolbion*, song the sixth.

down;

down; and that, if there be any safety at all, the safest way is to alight.

Piscat. I think so too for you, who are mounted upon a beast not acquainted with these slippery stones; and though I frequently ride down, I will alight too to bear you company, and to lead you the way; and, if you please, my man shall lead your horse.

Viat. Marry, Sir, and thank you too; for I am afraid I shall have enough to do to look to myself; and with my horse in my hand should be in a double fear, both of breaking my neck, and my horse's falling on me; for it is as steep as a penthouse.

Piscat. To look down from hence it appears so, I confess; but the path winds and turns, and will not be found so troublesome.

Viat. Would I were well down though! Hoist thee! there's one fair 'scape! these stones are so slippery I cannot stand! yet again! I think I were best lay my heels in my neck, and tumble down.

Piscat. If you think your heels will defend your neck, that is the way to be soon at the bottom; but give me your hand at this broad stone, and then the worst is past.

Viat. I thank you, Sir, I am now past it, I can go myself. What's here, the sign of a bridge? Do you use to travel with wheelbarrows in this country?

Piscat. Not that I ever saw, Sir. Why do you ask that question?

Viat. Because this bridge certainly was made for nothing else; why a mouse can hardly go over it: 'tis not two fingers broad.

Piscat. You are pleasant, and I am glad to see you so: but I have rid over the bridge many a dark night.

Viat. Why according to the *French* proverb, and 'tis a good one among a great many of worse sense and sound that language abounds in, *Ce que Dieu garde, est bien gardé*. They whom God takes care of are in safe protection: but, let me tell you, I would not ride over it for a thousand pounds, nor fall off it for two; and yet

yet I think I dare venture on foot, though if you were not by to laugh at me, I should do it on all four.

Piscat. Well, Sir, your mirth becomes you, and I am glad to see you safe over; and now you are welcome into *Staffordshire*.

Viat. How, *Staffordshire*! What do I there trow! there is not a word of *Staffordshire* in all my direction.

Piscat. You see you are betrayed into it; but it shall be in order to something that will make amends, and 'tis but an ill mile or two out of your way.

Viat. I believe all things, Sir, and doubt nothing. Is this your beloved river *Dove*? 'Tis clear and swift indeed, but a very little one.

Piscat. You see it here at the worst; we shall come to it anon again after two miles riding, and so near as to lie upon the very banks.

Viat. Would we were there once; but I hope we have no more of these *Alps* to pass over.

Piscat. No, no, Sir, only this ascent before you, which you see is not very uneasy, and then you will no more quarrel with your way.

Viat. Well, if ever I come to *London*, of which many a man there, if he were in my place, would make a question, I will sit down and write my travels, and, like *Tom Coriate*, print them at my own charge*. Pray what do you call this hill we came down? *Piscat.*

* *Tom Coriate* lived in the reign of king *James* the first, and, as *Wood* calls him, was the *whetstone* of all the wits of that age; and indeed, the allusions to him, and to the singular oddness of his character, are numberless. He travelled almost over *Europe* on foot, and in that tour walked 900 miles with one pair of shoes, which he got mended at *Zurich*. Afterwards he visited *Turkey*, *Persia*, and the *Great Mogul's* dominions, travelling in so frugal a manner, that, as he tells his mother, in a letter to her, in his ten months' travels between *Aleppo* and the *Mogul's* court, he spent but three pounds sterling; living reasonably well for about two-pence sterling a day; and of that three pounds, he elsewhere says, he was cozened of no less than ten shillings sterling by certain *Christians* of the *Armenian* nation; so that, indeed, he spent but fifty shillings in his ten months' travels. In these his travels he attained to great proficiency both in the *Persian* and *Indostan* languages: in the former he made and pronounced an oration to the *Great Mogul*, and his skill in the latter he took occasion to manifest in the following very signal instance. In the service of the *English* ambassador then

Piscat. We call it *Hanson-Toot*.

Viat. Why, farewell *Hanson-Toot*, I'll no more on thee; I'll go twenty miles about first:—Puh! I sweat, that my shirt sticks to my back.

Piscat. Come, Sir, now we are up the hill, and now how do you?

Viat. Why very well, I humbly thank you, Sir, and warm enough, I assure you. What have we here,

then resident, was a woman of *Indostan*, a laundress, whose frequent practice it was to scold, brawl and rail, from sun-rising to sun-set. This formidable-threw did *Coriate* one day undertake to scold with in her own language, and succeeded so well in the attempt, that by eight of the clock in the morning he had totally silenced her, leaving her not a word to speak. See a *Voyage to East-India*, by *Edward Terry*, chaplain to Sir *Tho. Rowe*, ambassador to the *Great Mogul*, 12mo. 1655.

Further it appears, that he was a zealous champion for the *Christian* religion, against the *Mahometans* and *Pagans*; in the defence whereof he sometimes risked his life. In *Turkey*, when a priest, as the custom is, was proclaiming from a mosque-tower that *Mahomet* was a true prophet, *Tom*, in the fury of his zeal, and in the face of the whole city, told the priest he lyed, and that his prophet was an impostor: and, at a city called *Moltan*, in the *East-Indies*, he, in publick, disputed with a *Mahometan*, who had called him *giaur*, or *infidel*, in these words: "But, I pray thee, tell me, thou *Mahometan*, dost thou in sadness call me *giaur*? That I do," quoth he: Then, quoth I, in very sober sadness I retort that shameful word in thy throat, and tell thee plainly, that I am a *musliman*, and thou art a *giaur*." He concludes thus: "Go to then, thou false believer, since by thy injurious imputation laid on me, in that thou calledst me *giaur*, thou hast provoked me to speak thus. I pray thee, let this mine answer be a warning for thee not to scandalize me in the like manner any more; for the *Christian* religion, which I profess, is so dear and tender unto me, that neither thou, nor any other *Mahometan*, shall, scot-free, call me *giaur*, but that I shall quit you with an answer much to the wonder of those *Mahometans*. *Dixi*."

He died of the flux, occasioned by drinking sack at *Surat*, in 1617; having published his *European* travels in a quarto volume, which he called his *Crudities*; and to this circumstance the passage in the text is a manifest allusion. See *Athen. Oxon.* Vol. I. Col. 422. *Purchase's Pilgrim*, Part I. Book 4. Chap. 17. *Coriate's* letter from the court of the *Great Mogul*, *Quarto*, 1616; and above all *Terry's Voyage* before cited, the author whereof was, as he himself asserts, his chamber-fellow, or tent-mate, in *East-India*.

a church?

a church? As I'm an honest man, a very pretty church! Have you churches in this country, Sir?

Piscat. You see we have: but had you seen none, why should you make that doubt, Sir?

Viat. Why, if you will not be angry, I'll tell you; I thought myself a stage or two beyond *Christendom*.

Piscat. Come, come, we'll reconcile you to our country before we part with you, if shewing you good sport with angling will do it.

Viat. My respect to you, and that together may do much, Sir; otherwise, to be plain with you, I do not find myself much inclined that way.

Piscat. Well, Sir, your raillery upon our mountains has brought us almost home; and look you where the same river of *Dove* has again met us to bid you welcome, and to invite you to a dish of Trouts to-morrow.

Viat. Is this the same we saw at the foot of *Penmen-Maure*? It is a much finer river here.

Piscat. It will appear yet much finer to-morrow. But look you, Sir, here appears the house, that is now like to be your inn, for want of a better.

Viat. It appears on a sudden, but not-before 'twas looked for; it stands prettily, and here's wood about it too, but so young, as appears to be of your own planting.

Piscat. It is so; will it please you to alight, Sir; and now permit me, after all your pains and dangers to take you in my arms, and to assure you, that you are infinitely welcome.

Viat. I thank you, Sir, and am glad with all my heart I am here; for, in downright truth, I am exceeding weary.

Piscat. You will sleep so much the better; you shall presently have a light supper, and to bed. Come, Sirs, lay the cloth, and bring what you have presently, and let the gentleman's bed be made ready in the mean time, in my father *Walton's* chamber; and now, Sir, here is my service to you, and once more welcome.

Viat. Ay marry, Sir, this glass of good sack has refreshed me, and I'll make as bold with your meat, for the trot has got me a good stomach.

Piscat. Come, Sir, fall to then, you see my little supper is always ready when I come home; and I'll make no stranger of you.

Viat. That your meal is so soon ready is a sign your servants know your certain hours, Sir; I confess I did not expect it so soon; but now 'tis here, you shall see I will make myself no stranger.

Piscat. Much good do your heart, and I thank you for that friendly word: and now, Sir, my service to you in a cup of *More-Land's* ale: for you are now in the *More-Lands*, but within a spit and a stride of the *Peak*; fill my friend his glass.

Viat. Believe me you have good ale in the *More-Lands*, far better than that at *Ashborn*.

Piscat. That it may soon be: for *Ashborn* has, which is a kind of a riddle, always in it the best malt, and the worst ale in *England*. Come, take away, and bring us some pipes, and a bottle of ale, and go to your own suppers. Are you for this diet, Sir?

Viat. Yes, Sir, I am for one pipe of tobacco; and I perceive your's is very good by the smell.

Piscat. The best I can get in *London*, I assure you*. But, Sir, now you have thus far complied with my designs,

* It should seem, by what *Walton* says, Chap. X. that he was a smoker: and the reader sees, by the passage in the text, that *Piscator*, by whom we are to understand *Cotton* himself, is so curious as to have his tobacco from *London*. But our piscatory disciple may do as he pleases.

Smoking, or, as the phrase was, *taking tobacco*, was, in queen *Elizabeth's* and her successor's time, esteemed the greatest of all folly. *Ben Jonson*, who mortally hated it, has numberless sarcasms against smoking and smokers; all which are nothing, compared to those contained in that work of our king *James* the first, *A Counter-blast to tobacco*. Nor was the ordinary conversation of this monarch less fraught with reasons and invectives against the use of that weed, as will appear from the following saying of his, extracted from *A Collection of witty apophthegms, delivered by him and others, at several times, and on sundry occasions*, published in 12mo. 1671.

“ That

designs, as to take a troublesome journey into an ill country, only to satisfy me; how long may I hope to enjoy you?

Viat. Why truly, Sir, as long as I conveniently can; and longer, I think, you would not have me.

Piscat. Not to your inconvenience by any means, Sir; but I see you are weary, and therefore I will presently wait on you to your chamber, where take counsel of your pillow, and to-morrow resolve me. Here,

"That tobacco was the lively image and pattern of hell; for that it had, by allusion, in it all the parts and vices of the world whereby hell may be gained; to wit: First, *It was a smoke*; so are the vanities of this world. Secondly, *It delighteth them who take it*; so do the pleasures of the world delight the men of the world. Thirdly, *It maketh men drunken, and light in the head*; so do the vanities of the world, men are drunken therewith. Fourthly, *He that taketh tobacco saith he cannot leave it, it doth bewitch him*: even so the pleasures of the world make men loath to leave them, they are for the most part so enchanted with them: and further, besides all this, *It is like hell in the very substance of it, for it is a sinking loathsome thing*; and so is hell. And further, his majesty professed that, were he to invite the devil to dinner, he should have three dishes; 1. *A pig*; 2. *A pole of ling and mustard*; and 3. *A pipe of tobacco for discourse*."

In a poem printed anno 1619, written by Samuel Rowley, I meet with the following humorous lines, uttered by two good fellows, lovers of drinking and tobacco, and since that time printed on a London tobacconist's paper:

*I am as dry as ever was March dust,
I have one great, and I will spend it just.
— O honest fellow, if that thou say'st so,
Lo! here's my great, and my tobacco too.*

I conclude this note on *smoking*, which by this time may have made the reader *laugh*, with the mention of a fact that may go near to make him *weep*, which the people of *Herefordshire* have by tradition. In that county, to signify the last or concluding pipe that any one means to smoke at a sitting, they use the term a *Kemble Pipe*, alluding to a man of the name of *Kemble*, who, in the cruel persecution under that merciless bigot queen *Mary*, being condemned for heresy, in his walk of some miles from the prison to the stake, amidst a croud of weeping friends and neighbours, with the tranquillity and fortitude of a primitive martyr, *smoked a pipe of tobacco!*

take

take the lights, and pray follow them, Sir. Here you are like to lie; and now I have shewed you your lodging, I beseech you, command any thing you want, and so I wish you good rest.

Viat. Good night, Sir*.

CHAP. III.

PISCATOR.

GOOD morrow, Sir; what! up and drest so early?

Viat. Yes, Sir, I have been drest this half hour; for I rested so well, and have so great a mind either to take, or to see a Trout taken in your fine river, that I could no longer lie a bed.

Piscat. I am glad to see you so brisk this morning, and so eager of sport; though I must tell you, this day proves so calm, and the sun rises so bright, as promises no great success to the angler: but, however, we'll try, and, one way or other, we shall sure do something. What will you have to your breakfast, or what will you drink this morning?

Viat. For breakfast, I never eat any, and for drink am very indifferent; but if you please to call for a glass of ale, I'm for you; and let it be quickly, if you please, for I long to see the little fishing-house you spoke of, and to be at my lesson.

Piscat. Well, Sir, you see the ale is come without calling; for though I do not know your's, my people know my diet, which is always one glass so soon as I

* The gentlemanly hospitality of *Piscator*, by whom we are here to understand Mr. Cotton himself, in his behaviour to a stranger, manifested in the foregoing part of the dialogue, and in this instance of courtesy, is well worth noting.

am dress'd, and no more till dinner; and so my servants have served you.

Viat. My thanks, and now, if you please, let us look out this fine morning.

Piscat. With all my heart; boy, take the key of my fishing-house, and carry down those two angle-rods in the hall-window thither, with my fish-pannier, pouch, and landing-net; and stay you there till we come. Come, Sir, we'll walk after; where, by the way, I expect you should raise all the exceptions against our country you can.

Viat. Nay, Sir, do not think me so ill-natured, nor so uncivil; I only made a little bold with it last night to divert you, and was only in jest.

Piscat. You were then in as good earnest as I am now with you: but had you been really angry at it, I could not blame you: for, to say the truth, it is not very taking at first sight. But look you, Sir, now you are abroad, does not the sun shine as bright here as in *Essex*, *Middlesex*, or *Kent*, or any of your southern counties?

Viat. 'Tis a delicate morning, indeed; and I now think this a marvellous pretty place.

Piscat. Whether you think so or no, you cannot oblige me more than to say so; and those of my friends who know my humour, and are so kind as to comply with it, usually flatter me that way. But look you, Sir, now you are at the brink of the hill, how do you like my river, the vale it winds through like a snake, and the situation of my little fishing-house?

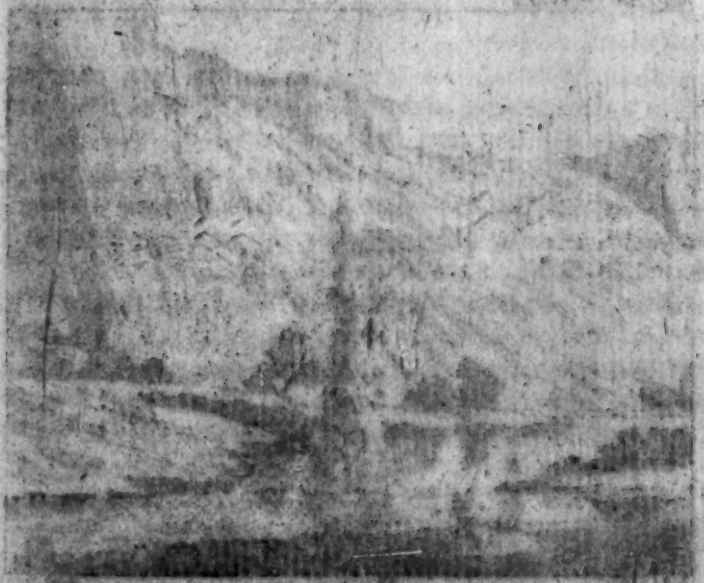
Viat. Trust me, 'tis all very fine, and the house seems at this distance a neat building.

Piscat. Good enough for that purpose; and here is a bowling-green too, close by it; so though I am myself no very good bowler, I am not totally devoted to my own pleasure, but that I have also some regard to other men's. And now, Sir, you are to come to the door, pray walk in, and there we will sit, and talk as long as you please.

Viat.

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THE GREAT HALL OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



THE GREAT HALL OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Plate XII. to Front Page 31 . of Part II.



View of the Fishing-House Formerly M^r COTTON'S
Page 45 . Part II.



View of PIKE-POOL
Rub^d According to Act of Parliam^t 1759-

Viat. Stay, what's here over the door? PISCATORIBUS SACRUM*. Why then, I perceive, I have some title here; for I am one of them, though one of the worst; and here below it is the cypher too you spoke of, and 'tis prettily contrived. Has my master Walton ever been here to see it, for it seems new built †?

* There is under this motto, the cypher mentioned in the title-page, and some part of the fishing-house has been described; but the pleasantness of the river, mountains, and meadows about it, cannot, unless Sir Philip Sidney, or Mr. Cotton's father, were again alive to do it.

Piscat. Yes, he saw it cut in the stone before it was set up, but never in the posture it now stands: for the house was but building when he was last here, and not raised so high as the arch of the door, and I am afraid he will not see it yet; for he has lately writ me word, he doubts his coming down this summer; which, I do assure

† Having been informed that the fishing-house here mentioned was yet standing, I employed an artist, well known for the many excellent views he has given the public of the *Peak*, and parts adjacent, to make a drawing of that and also of *Pike-pool*, with the rock rising in the midst thereof; both which are described Chap. VI. this he accordingly did; and from his drawings, the plate in the opposite page was engraved; which it is imagined the reader will be pleased with, as it exhibits the very scene where this dialogue is supposed to have been held, and where, as we are assured, *Cotton* and *Walton* used to fish. But since the publication of the former edition, I have been favoured with an accurate description of the fishing-house, by a person, who, being in that country, with a view to oblige me went to see it. The account he gives of it is, that it is of stone, and the room on the inside a cube of about fifteen feet: that it is paved with black and white marble. In the middle is a square black marble table, supported by two stone feet. The room is wainscoted, with curious moldings that divide the panels up to the ceiling: in the larger panels are represented in painting some of the most pleasant of the adjacent scenes, with persons fishing; and in the smaller, the various sorts of tackle and implements used in angling. In the further corner, on the left, is a fire-place, with a chimney; and, on the right, a large banquet, with folding doors, whereon are the portraits of Mr. *Cotton*, with a boy-servant, and *Walton*, in the dress of the time: underneath is a cupboard, on the door whereof the figures of a Trout, and also of a Grayling, are well portrayed.

assure you, was the worst news he could possibly have sent me.

Viat. Men must sometimes mind their affairs to make more room for their pleasures; and 'tis odds he is as much displeased with the business that keeps him from you, as you are that he comes not. But I am the most pleased with this little house, of any thing I ever saw: it stands

trayed. The edifice is at this time in but indifferent condition; the paintings, and even the wainscoting, in many places, being much decayed. The following is believed to be a more correct view of it than the former.



in a kind of peninsula too, with a delicate clear river about it. I dare hardly go in, lest I should not like it so well within as without; but, by your leave, I'll try. Why this is better and better, fine lights, finely wainscoted, and all exceeding neat, with a marble table, and all, in the middle!

Piscat. Enough, Sir, enough, I have laid open to you the part where I can worst defend myself; and now you attack me there. Come, boy, set two chairs, and whilst I am taking a pipe of tobacco, which is always my breakfast, we will, if you please, talk of some other subject.

Viat. None fitter then, Sir, for the time and place, than those instructions you promised.

Piscat. I begin to doubt, by something I discover in you, whether I am able to instruct you or no; though, if you are really a stranger to our clear northern rivers, I still think I can; and therefore, since it is yet too early in the morning at this time of the year, to-day being but the seventh of *March*, to cast a fly upon the water, if you will direct me what kind of fishing for a Trout I shall read you a lecture on, I am willing and ready to obey you.

Viat. Why, Sir, if you will so far oblige me, and that it may not be too troublesome to you, I would entreat you would run through the whole body of it; and I will not conceal from you, that I am so far in love with you, your courtesy, and pretty *Moreland* seat, as to resolve to stay with you long enough by intervals; for I will not oppress you, to hear all you can say upon upon that subject.

Piscat. You cannot oblige me more than by such a promise; and therefore, without more ceremony, I will begin to tell you, that my father *Walton* having read to you before, it would look like a presumption in me, and peradventure would do so in any other man, to pretend to give lessons for angling after him, who, I do really believe, understands as much of it, at least, as any man in *England*; did I not pre-acquaint you, that I am not tempted to it by any vain opinion of myself,

myself, that I am able to give you better directions; but having from my childhood pursued the recreation of angling in very clear rivers, truly I think by much, some of them at least the clearest in this kingdom, and the manner of angling here with us, by reason of that exceeding clearness, being something different from the method commonly used in others, which by being not near so bright, admit of stronger tackle, and allow a nearer approach to the stream; I may peradventure give you some instructions, that may be of use, even in your own rivers, and shall bring you acquainted with more flies, and shew you how to make them, and with what dubbing too, than he has taken notice of in his COMPLETE ANGLER.

Viat. I beseech, you, Sir, do; and if you will lend me your steel, I will light a pipe the while; for that is commonly my breakfast in a morning top.

CHAPTER IV.

PISCATOR.

WH Y then, Sir, to begin methodically, as a master in any art should do; and I will not deny, but that I think myself a master in this, I shall divide angling for Trout or Grayling into these three ways; at the top; at the bottom; and in the middle. Which three ways, though they are all of them, as I shall hereafter endeavour to make it appear, in some sort common to both those kinds of fish, yet are they not so generally and absolutely so, but that they will necessarily require a distinction, which, in due place, I will also give you.

That which we call angling at the top, is with a fly; at the bottom with a ground-bait; in the middle with a minnow or ground-bait.

Angling

Angling at the top is of two sorts; with a quick fly, or with an artificial fly.

That we call angling at the bottom, is also of two sorts; by hand, or with a cork or float.

That we call angling in the middle, is also of two sorts; with a Minnow for a Trout, or with a ground-bait for a Grayling.

Of all which several sorts of angling, I will, if you can have the patience to hear me, give you the best account I can.

Viat. The trouble will be your's, and mine the pleasure and the obligation: I beseech you therefore to proceed.

Piscat. Why then, first of fly-fishing.

CHAP V.

Of FLY-FISHING.

PISCATOR.

FLY-fishing, or fishing at the top, is, as I said before, of two sorts; with a natural and living fly, or with an artificial and made fly.

First then, of the natural fly; of which we generally use but two sorts, and those but in the two months of *May* and *June* only; namely, the green-drake, and the stone-fly; though I have made use of a third that way, called the camlet-fly, with very good success, for Grayling; but never saw it angled with by any other after this manner, my master only excepted, who died many years ago, and was one of the best anglers that ever I knew.

These are to be angled with with a short line, not much more than half the length of your rod, if the air be still; or with a longer very near, or all out as long as your rod, if you have any wind to carry it from you. And this way of fishing we call dapping,
 dabbling

dabbing or dibbing, wherein you are always to have your line flying before you, up or down the river, as the wind serves, and to angle as near as you can to the bank of the same side whereon you stand; though where you see a fish rise near you, you may guide your quick fly over him, whether in the middle, or on the contrary side; and if you are pretty well out of sight, either by kneeling, or the interposition of a bank or bush, you may almost be sure to raise, and take him too, if it be presently done; the fish will otherwise peradventure be removed to some other place, if it be in the still deeps, where he is always in motion, and roving up and down to look for prey; though in a stream, you may always almost, especially if there be a good stone near, find him in the same place. Your line ought in this case to be three good hairs next the hook, both by reason you are in this kind of angling to expect the biggest fish, and also that wanting length to give him line after he is struck, you must be forced to tug for it; to which I will also add, that not an inch of your line being to be suffered to touch the water in dibbing, it may be allowed to be the stronger. I should now give you a description of those flies, their shape and colour, and then give you an account of their breeding, and withal shew you how to keep and use them; but shall defer them to their proper place and season.

Viat. In earnest, Sir, you discourse very rationally of this affair, and I am glad to find myself mistaken in you; for in plain truth, I did not expect so much from you.

Piscat. Nay, Sir, I can tell you a great deal more than this, and will conceal nothing from you. But I must now come to the second way of angling at the top, which is with an artificial fly, which also I will shew you how to make before I have done; but first shall acquaint you, that with this you are to angle with a line longer by a yard and a half, or sometimes two yards, than your rod; and with both this and the other in a still day, in the streams, in a breeze that curls

curls the water in the still deeps, where (excepting in *May* and *June*, that the best Trouts will lie in shallow streams to watch for prey, and even then too) you are like to hit the best fish.

For the length of your rod, you are always to be governed by the breadth of the river you shall chuse to angle at; and for a Trout-river, one of five or six yards long is commonly enough; and longer, though never so neatly and artificially made, it ought not to be, if you intend to fish at ease; and if otherwise, where lies the sport?

Of these, the best that ever I saw are made in *Yorkshire*, which are all of one piece; that is to say, of several, six, eight, ten, or twelve pieces, so neatly pieced, and tied together with fine thread below, and silk above, as to make it taper like a switch, and to ply with a true bent to your hand; and these too are light, being made of fir-wood for two or three lengths nearest to the hand, and of other wood nearer to the top, that a man might very easily manage the longest of them that ever I saw, with one hand; and these, when you have given over angling for a season, being taken to pieces, and laid up in some dry place, may afterwards be set together again in their former postures, and will be as strait, sound, and good, as the first hour they were made; and being laid in oil and colour, according to your master *Walton's* direction, will last many years.

The length of your line, to a man that knows how to handle his rod, and to cast it, is no manner of incumbrance, excepting in woody places, and in landing of a fish, which every one that can afford to angle for pleasure, has somebody to do for him; and the length of line is a mighty advantage to the fishing at distance; and to fish *fine*, and *far off*, is the first and principal rule for Trout-angling*.

* An artist may easily throw twelve yards of line with one hand, and with two, he may as easily throw eighteen.

Your

Your line in this case should never be less, nor ever exceed two hairs next to the hook; for one, though some I know will pretend to more art than their fellows, is indeed too few, the least accident, with the finest hand, being sufficient to break it: but he that cannot kill a Trout of twenty inches long with two, in a river clear of wood and weeds, as this and some others of ours are, deserves not the name of an angler*.

Now to have your whole line as it ought to be, two of the first lengths nearest the hook should be of two hairs apiece, the next three lengths above them of three, the next three above them of four, and so of five and six, and seven, to the very top: by which means, your rod and tackle will in a manner be taper from your very hand to your hook; your line will fall much better and straiter, and cast your fly to any certain place to which the hand and eye shall direct it, with less weight and violence, that would otherwise circle the water, and fright away the fish.

In casting your line, do it always before you †, and so that your fly may first fall upon the water, and as little of your line with it as is possible; though if the wind be stiff, you will then of necessity be compelled to drown a good part of your line, to keep your fly in the water; and in casting your fly, you must aim at the further or nearer bank, as the wind serves your turn; which also will be with and against you on the same side several times in an hour, as the river winds in its course, and you will be forced to angle up and down by turns accordingly; but are to endeavour, as much as you can, to have the wind evermore on your back; and always be sure to stand as far off the bank as your length will give you leave, when you throw to the contrary side; though when the wind will not

* See the directions for your rod and line in the notes on Chap. XXI. Part I.

† Till you are a proficient, every throw will go near to cost you a hook; therefore practise for some time without one.

permit you so to do, and that you are constrained to angle on the same side whereon you stand, you must then stand on the very brink of the river, and cast your fly at the utmost length of your rod and line, up or down the river, as the gale serves.

It only remains, touching your line, to enquire whether your two hairs next to the hook, are better twisted, or open? And for that, I should declare that I think the open way the better, because it makes less shew in the water, but that I have found an inconvenience or two, or three, that have made me almost weary of that way; of which one is, that without dispute they are not so strong twisted as open; another, that they are not easily to be fastened of so exact an equal length in the arming, that the one will not cause the other to bag, by which means a man has but one hair upon the matter to trust to; and the last is, that these loose flying hairs are not only more apt to catch upon every twig or bent they meet with, but moreover the hook, in falling upon the water, will very often rebound, and fly back betwixt the hairs, and there stick, which, in a rough water especially, is not presently to be discerned by the angler, so as the point of the hook shall stand reversed; by which means your fly swims backward, makes a much greater circle in the water, and, till taken home to you and set right, will never raise any fish; or if it should, I am sure, but by a very extraordinary chance, can hit none*.

Having done with both these ways of fishing at the top, the length of your rod, and line and all, I am next to teach you how to make a fly; and afterwards of what dubbing you are to make the several flies I shall hereafter name to you.

In making a fly then, which is not a hackle or palmer-fly (for of those, and their several kinds, we

* This, and the other inconveniencies mentioned in this paragraph, are effectually avoided by the use of a fine grass, or gut, of about half a yard long, next the hook. See the notes on Chap. XXI. Part I.

shall have occasion to speak every month in the year) you are first to hold your hook fast betwixt the fore-finger and thumb of your left-hand, with the back of the shank upwards, and the point towards your finger's ends; then take a strong small silk, of the colour of the fly you intend to make, wax it well with wax of the same colour too (to which end, you are always, by the way, to have wax of all colours about you) and draw it betwixt your finger and thumb, to the head of the shank, and then whip it twice or thrice about the bare hook, which you must know is done, both to prevent slipping, and also that the shank of the hook may not cut the hairs of your towght, which sometimes it will otherwise do: which being done, take your line and draw it likewise betwixt your finger and thumb, holding the hook so fast as only to suffer it to pass by, until you have the knot of your towght almost to the middle of the shank of your hook, on the inside of it; then whip your silk twice or thrice about both hook and line, as hard as the strength of the silk will permit; which being done, strip the feather for the wings proportionable to the bigness of your fly, placing that side downwards which grew uppermost before, upon the back of the hook, leaving so much only as to serve for the length of the wing of the point of the plume, lying reversed from the end of the shank upwards; then whip your silk twice or thrice about the root-end of the feather, hook, and towght; which being done, clip off the root-end of the feather close by the arming, and then whip the silk fast and firm about the hook and towght, until you come to the bend of the hook, but not further, as you do at *London*; and so make a very unhandsome, and, in plain *English*, a very unnatural and strapeless fly; which being done, cut away the end of your towght, and fasten it, and then take your dubbing, which is to make the body of your fly, as much as you think convenient, and holding it lightly with your hook betwixt the finger and thumb of your left-hand, take your silk with the right, and twisting it betwixt the finger and thumb of that hand,

hand, the dubbing will spin itself about the silk, which when it has done, whip it about the armed hook backward, till you come to the setting on of the wings; and then take the feather for the wings, and divide it equally into two parts, and turn them back towards the bend of the hook, the one on the one side, and the other on the other of the shank, holding them fast in that posture betwixt the fore-finger and thumb of your left-hand; which done, warp them so down as to stand, and slope towards the bend of the hook; and having warped up to the end of the shank, hold the fly fast betwixt the finger and thumb of your left-hand, and then take the silk betwixt the finger and thumb of your right-hand, and, where the warping ends, pinch or nip it with your thumb-nail against your finger, and strip away the remainder of your dubbing from the silk, and then with the bare silk, whip it once or twice about, make the wings to stand in due order, fasten, and cut it off; after which, with the point of a needle, raise up the dubbing gently from the warp, twitch off the superfluous hairs of your dubbing, leave the wings of an equal length, your fly will never else swim true, and the work is done. And this way of making a fly, which is certainly the best of all other, was taught me by a kinsman of mine, one Captain *Henry Jackson*, a near neighbour, an admirable fly-angler, by many degrees the best fly-maker that ever I yet met with*. And now that I have told you how a fly is to be made, you shall presently see me make one, with which you may peradventure take a Trout this morning, notwithstanding the unlikeliness of the day; for it is now nine of the clock, and fish will begin to rise, if they will rise to-day: I will walk along by you, and look on, and after dinner I will proceed in my lecture of fly-fishing.

* There needs nothing more be said of these directions, than that hundreds have, by means of them alone, become excellent fly-makers.

For making a palmer, or hackle, see the notes on Chap. VII.

Viat. I confess I long to be at the river, and yet I could sit here all day to hear you; but some of the one, and some of the other, will do well; and I have a mighty ambition to take a Trout in your river
Dove.

Piscat. I warrant you shall: I would not for more than I will speak of but you should, seeing I have so extolled my river to you: nay, I will keep you here a month, but you shall have one good day of sport before you go.

Viat. You will find me, I doubt, too tractable that way; for in good earnest, if business would give me leave, and that it were fit, I could find in my heart to stay with you for ever.

Piscat. I thank you, Sir, for that kind expression; and now let me look out my things to make this fly.

CH A P. VI.

PISCATOR.

BOY, come, give me my dubbing bag here presently; and now, Sir, since I find you so honest a man, I will make no scruple to lay open my treasure before you.

Viat. Did ever any one see the like! what a heap of trumpery is here! certainly never an angler in *Europe* has his shop half so well furnished as you have.

Piscat. You, perhaps, may think now, that I rake together this trumpery, as you call it, for shew only, to the end that such as see it, which are not many I assure you, may think me a great master in the art of angling: but let me tell you, here are some colours, as contemptible as they seem here, that are very hard to be got, and scarce any one of them, which, if it should be lost, I should not miss, and be concerned about the loss of it too, once in the year; but look you, Sir, amongst all these I will chuse out these two colours only, of which this is bear's hair, this darker,
no



J. W. del. J. M. sc.

J. W. del. J. M. sc.

Pub^d According to Act of Parliam^t 1759.



Fig. 1. Interior of the Temple of Solomon.

no great matter what ; but I am sure I have killed a great deal of fish with it ; and with one or both of these you shall take Trout or Grayling this very day, notwithstanding all disadvantages, or my art shall fail me.

Viat. You promise comfortably, and I have a great deal of reason to believe every thing you say ; but I wish the fly were made, that we were at it.

Piscat. That will not be long in doing : and pray observe then. You see first how I hold my hook, and thus I begin. Look you, here are my first two or three whips about the bare hook ; thus I join hook and line ; thus I put on my wings ; thus I twirl and lap on my dubbing ; thus I work it up towards the head ; thus I part my wings ; thus I nip my superfluous dubbing from my silk ; thus fasten ; thus trim and adjust my fly, and there is a fly made ; and now how do you like it ?

Viat. In earnest, admirably well, and it perfectly resembles a fly ; but we about *London*, make the bodies of our flies both much bigger and longer, so long as even almost to the very beard of the hook.

Piscat. I know it very well, and had one of those flies given me by an honest gentleman, who came with my father *Walton* to give me a visit ; which, to tell you the truth, I hung in my parlour window to laugh at : but, Sir, you know the proverb, “ They who go to *Rome*, must do as they at *Rome* do ; ” and believe me, you must here make your flies after this fashion, or you will take no fish. Come, I will look you out a line, and you shall put it on, and try it. There, Sir, now I think you are fitted ; and now beyond the farther end of the walk you shall begin : I see at that bend of the water above, the air crisps the water a little ; knit your line first here, and then go up thither, and see what you can do.

Viat. Did you see that, Sir ?

Piscat. Yes, I saw the fish, and he saw you too, which made him turn short ; you must fish further off, if you intend to have any sport here ; this is no *New River*.

River, let me tell you. That was a good Trout, believe me; did you touch him?

Viat. No, I would I had, we would not have parted so. Look you, there was another; this is an excellent fly.

Piscat. That fly, I am sure, would kill fish, if the day were right; but they only chew at it, I see, and will not take it. Come, Sir, let us return back to the fishing-house; this still water I see will not do our business to-day; you shall now, if you please, make a fly yourself*, and try what you can do in the streams with that; and I know a Trout taken with a fly of your own making, will please you better than twenty with one of mine. Give me that bag again, sirrah; look you, Sir, there is a hook, towght, silk, and a feather for the wings; be doing with those, and I will look you out a dubbing that I think will do.

Viat. This is a very little hook.

Piscat. That may serve to inform you, that it is for a very little fly, and you must make your wings accordingly; for as the case stands, it must be a little fly, and a very little one too, that must do your business. Well said! believe me you shift your fingers very handsomely; I doubt I have taken upon me to teach my master. So, here's your dubbing now.

Viat. This dubbing is very black.

Piscat. It appears so in hand; but step to the door, and hold it up betwixt your eye and the sun, and it will appear a shining red; let me tell you, never a

* To make a fly is so essential, that he hardly deserves the name of an angler who cannot do it. There are many who will go to a tackle-shop, and tell the master of it, as *Dapper* does *Subtle*, in the *Alchemist*, that they want a fly; for which they have a thing put into their hands, that would pose a naturalist to find a resemblance for: though, when particular directions have been given, I have known them excellently made by the persons employed by the fishing-tackle makers in *London*. But do thou, my honest friend, learn to make thy own flies; and be assured, that in collecting and arranging the materials, and imitating the various shapes and colours of these admirable creatures, there is little less pleasure than even in catching fish.

man in *England* can discern the true colour of a dubbing, any way but that, and therefore chuse always to make your flies on such a bright sun-shine day as this, which also you may the better do, because it is worth nothing to fish in: here, put it on, and be sure to make the body of your fly as slender as you can. Very good! upon my word you have made a marvellous handsome fly!

Viat. I am very glad to hear it; it is the first that ever I made of this kind in my life.

Pisc. Away, away! You are a doctor at it; but I will not commend you too much, lest I make you proud. Come, put it on, and you shall now go downward to some streams betwixt the rocks below the little foot-bridge you see there, and try your fortune. Take heed of slipping into the water as you follow me under this rock: so, now you are over, and now throw in.

Viat. This is a fine stream indeed:—there's one! I have him.

Pisc. And a precious catch you have of him; pull him out! I see you have a tender hand: this is a diminutive gentleman, e'en throw him in again, and let him grow till he be more worthy your anger.

Viat. Pardon me, Sir, all's fish that comes to the hook with me now.—Another!

Pisc. And of the same standing.

Viat. I see I shall have good sport now: another! and a Grayling. Why you have fish here at will.

Pisc. Come, come, cross the bridge, and go down the other side lower, where you will find finer streams and better sport, I hope, than this. Look you, Sir, here is a fine stream now, you have length enough, stand a little further off, let me entreat you, and do but fish this stream like an artist, and peradventure a good fish may fall to your share.—How now! what! is all gone?

Viat. No, I but touch'd him; but that was a fish worth taking.

Pisc. Why now, let me tell you, you lost that fish by your own fault, and through your own eagerness and haste; for you are never to offer to strike a good fish, if he do not strike himself, till first you see him turn his head after he has taken your fly, and then you can never strain your tackle in the striking, if you strike with any manner of moderation. Come, throw in once again, and fish me this stream by inches; for I assure you, here are very good fish; both Trout and Grayling lie here; and at that great stone on the other side, it is ten to one a good Trout gives you the meeting.

Viat. I have him now, but he is gone down towards the bottom; I cannot see what he is, yet he should be a good fish by his weight; but he makes no great stir.

Pisc. Why then, by what you say, I dare venture to assure you, it is a Grayling, who is one of the deadeft-hearted fishes in the world, and the bigger he is, the more easily taken. Look you, now you see him plain; I told you what he was; bring hither that landing-net, boy; and now, Sir, he is your own; and believe me a good one, sixteen inches long I warrant him; I have taken none such this year.

Viat. I never saw a Grayling before look so black.

Pisc. Did you not? why then let me tell you, that you never saw one before in right season: for then a Grayling is very black about his head, gills, and down his back, and has his belly of a dark grey, dappled with black spots, as you see this is; and I am apt to conclude, that from thence he derives his name of Umber. Though I must tell you, this fish is past his prime, and begins to decline, and was in better season at *Christmas* than he is now. But move on, for it grows towards dinner-time, and there is a very great and fine stream below, under that rock, that fills the deepest pool in all the river, where you are almost sure of a good fish.

Viat. Let him come, I'll try a fall with him; but I had thought, that the Grayling had been always in season



J. Wallis del.

J. Kneass sculp.

Pub.^d According to Act of Parliam.^t 1759

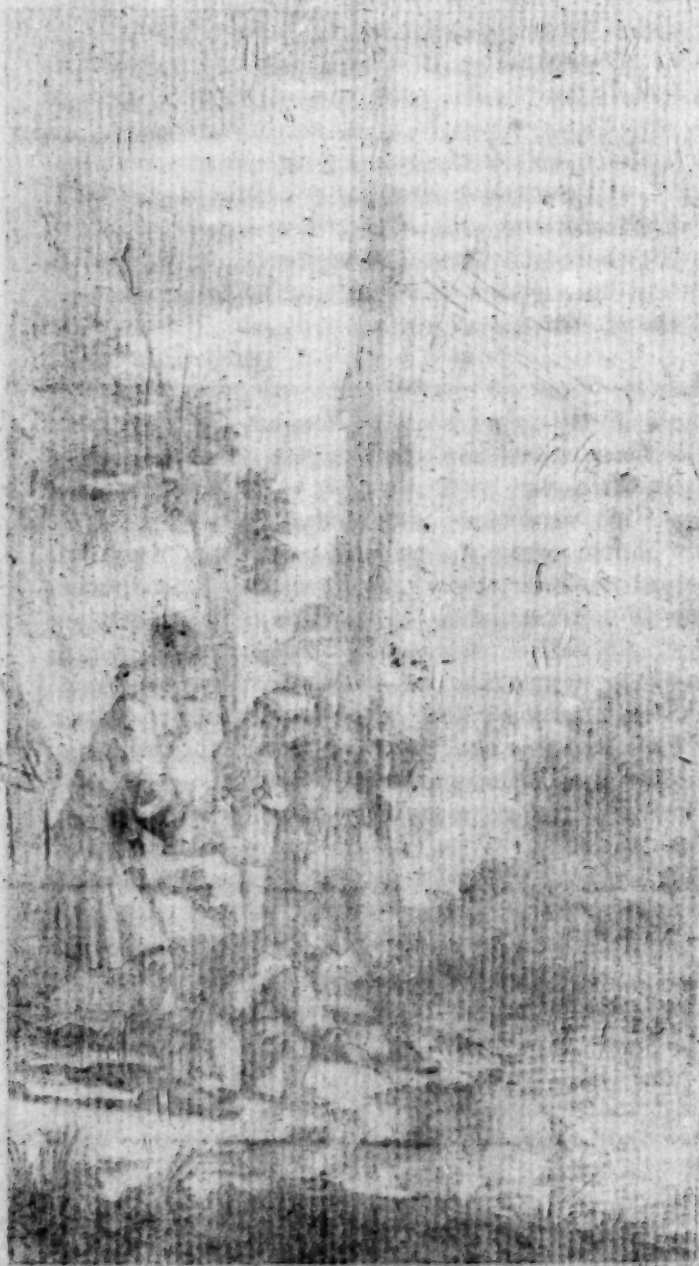


Fig. 1. According to the original.

season with the Trout, and had come in and gone out with him.

Pisc. Oh no! assure yourself a Grayling is a winter-fish; but such a one as would deceive any but such as know him very well indeed, for his flesh, even in his worst season, is so firm, and will so easily calver, that in plain truth he is very good meat at all times; but in his perfect season, which, by the way, none but an over-grown Grayling will ever be, I think him so good a fish as to be little inferior to the best Trout that ever I tasted in my life.

Viat. Here's another skip-jack, and I have raised five or six more at least whilst you were speaking: well, go thy way little *Dove*! thou art the finest river that ever I saw, and the fullest of fish. Indeed, Sir, I like it so well, that I am afraid you will be troubled with me once a year, so long as we two live.

Pisc. I am afraid I shall not, Sir; but were you once here a *May* or a *June*, if good sport would tempt you, I should then expect you would sometimes see me; for you would then say it were a fine river indeed, if you had once seen the sport at the height.

Viat. Which I will do, if I live, and that you please to give me leave.—There was one,—and there another.

Pisc. And all this in a strange river, and with a fly of your own making! why what a dangerous man are you!

Viat. I, Sir, but who taught me? and as *Damætas* says by his man *Dorus*, so you may say by me,

——If my man such praises have,
What then have I, that taught the knave *?

But what have we got here? a rock springing up in the middle of the river! this is one of the oddest sights that ever I saw.

* *Sidney's Arcadia.*

Pisc. Why, Sir, from that pike * that you see

* *It is a rock, in the fashion of a spire-steeple, and almost as big. It stands in the midst of the river Dove; and not far from Mr. Cotton's house, below which place this delicate river takes a swift career betwixt many mighty rocks, much higher and bigger than St. Paul's church, before it was burnt. And this Dove being opposed by one of the highest of them, has, at last, forced itself a way through it; and after a mile's concealment, appears again with more glory and beauty than before that opposition, running through the most pleasant vallies and most fruitful meadows that this nation can justly boast of.*

standing up there distant from the rock, this is called *Pike-Pool*: and young Mr. *Isaac Walton* was so pleased with it, as to draw it in landscape in black and white, in a blank book I have at home, as he has done several prospects of my house also, which I keep for a memorial of his favour, and will shew you when we come up to dinner.

Viat. Has young master *Isaac Walton* been here too?

Pisc. Yes, marry has he, Sir, and that again and again too, and in *France* since, and at *Rome*, and at *Venice*, and I can't tell where: but I intend to ask him a great many hard questions so soon as I can see him, which will be, God willing, next month. In the mean time, Sir, to come to this fine stream at the head of this great pool, you must venture over these slippery, cobling stones; believe me, Sir, there you were nimble, or else you had been down; but now you are got over, look to yourself: for, on my word, if a fish rise here, he is like to be such a one as will endanger your tackle: how now!

Viat. I think you have such command here over the fishes, that you can raise them by your word, as they say conjurers can do spirits, and afterward make them do what you bid them: for here's a Trout has taken my fly, I had rather have lost a crown*. What luck's this! he was a lovely fish, and turned up a side like a Salmon.

Pisc. O Sir, this is a war where you sometimes win, and must sometimes expect to lose. Never con-

* *Taken*, in the worst sense, viz. broke away with it.

cern yourself for the loss of your fly, for ten to one I teach you to make a better. Who's that calls *?

Serv. Sir, will it please you to come to dinner?

Pisc. We come. You hear, Sir, we are called, and now take your choice, whether you will climb this steep hill before you, from the top of which you will go directly into the house, or back again over these stepping-stones, and about by the bridge.

Viat. Nay, sure, the nearest way is best; at least my stomach tells me so; and I am now so well acquainted with your rocks, that I fear them not.

Pisc. Come then, follow me; and so soon as we have dined, we will down again to the little house, where I will begin at the place I left off about fly-fishing, and read you another lecture; for I have a great deal more to say upon that subject.

Viat. The more the better; I could never have met with a more obliging master, my first excepted; nor such sport can all the rivers about *London* ever afford, as is to be found in this pretty river.

Pisc. You deserve to have better, both because I see you are willing to take pains, and for liking this little so well; and better I hope to shew you before we part.

CHAP. VII.

VIATOR.

COME, Sir, having now well dined, and being again set in your little house, I will now challenge your promise, and intreat you to proceed in your instruction for fly-fishing; which that you may be the better encouraged to do, I will assure you, that I have

* The dialogue is here so natural, and the incidents in this morning's expedition so strongly marked, that the reader may almost imagine he sees and hears of all that is here related.

not lost, I think, one syllable of what you have told me; but very well retain all your directions both for the rod, line, and making a fly, and now desire an account of the flies themselves.

Pisc. Why, Sir, I am ready to give it you, and shall have the whole afternoon to do it in, if nobody come in to interrupt us; for you must know, besides the unfitness of the day, that the afternoons, so early in *March*, signify very little to angling with a fly, though with a minnow, or a worm, something might, I confess, be done.

To begin then where I left off; my father *Walton* tells us but of twelve artificial flies only, to angle with at the top, and gives their names; of which some are common with us here; and I think I guess at most of them by his description, and I believe they all breed, and are taken in our rivers, though we do not make them either of the same dubbing or fashion. And it may be in the rivers about *London*, which I presume he has most frequented, and where it is likely he has done most execution, there is not much notice taken of many more: but we are acquainted with several others here, though perhaps I may reckon some of his by other names too; but if I do, I shall make you amends by an addition to his catalogue. And although the fore-named great master in the art of angling, for so in truth he is, tells you that no man should in honesty catch a Trout till the middle of *March*, yet I hope he will give a man leave sooner to take a Grayling, which, as I told you, is in the dead months in his best season; and do assure you, which I remember by a very remarkable token, I did once take upon the sixth day of *December* one, and only one, of the biggest Graylings and the best in season, that ever I yet saw or tasted; and do usually take Trouts too, and with a fly, not only before the middle of this month, but almost every year in *February*, unless it be a very ill spring indeed; and have sometimes in *January*, so early as *New-year's-tide*, and in frost and snow taken Grayling in a warm sunshine day for an hour or two

about

about noon; and to fish for him with a Grub it is then the best time of all.

I shall therefore begin my fly-fishing with that month, though I confess very few begin so soon, and that such as are so fond of the sport as to embrace all opportunities, can rarely in that month find a day fit for their purpose; and tell you, that upon my knowledge these flies in a warm sun, for an hour or two in the day, are certainly taken.

JANUARY.

1. A RED BROWN, with wings of the male of a mallard almost white: the dubbing of the tail of a black long-coated cur, such as they commonly make muffs of; for the hair on the tail of such a dog dies and turns to a red brown, but the hair of a smooth-coated dog of the same colour will not do, because it will not die, but retains its natural colour, and this fly is taken in a warm sun, this whole month through.

2. There is also a very little BRIGHT DUN GNAT, as little as can possibly be made, so little as never to be fished with, with above one hair next the hook; and this is to be made of a mixt dubbing of marten's fur, and the white of a hare's scut, with a very white and small wing; and it is no great matter how fine you fish, for nothing will rise in this month but a Grayling; and of them I never, at this season, saw any taken with a fly, of above a foot long in my life: but of little ones about the bigness of a Smelt, in a warm day, and a glowing sun, you may take enough with these two flies, and they are both taken the whole month through.

FEBRUARY.

1. Where the red-brown of the last month ends, another almost of the same colour begins, with this saving, that the dubbing of this must be of something a blacker colour, and both of them warpt on with red

silk; the dubbing that should make this fly, and that is the truest colour, is to be got off the black spot of a hog's ear: not that a black spot in any part of the hog will not afford the same colour; but that the hair in that place is, by many degrees, softer, and more fit for the purpose: his wing must be as the other, and this kills all this month, and is called the lesser red-brown.

2. This month also a **PLAIN HACKLE** (1), or palmer-fly made with a rough black body, either of black spaniel's fur, or the whirl of an ostrich feather, and the red hackle of a capon over all, will kill, and if the weather be right, make very good sport.

3. Also a **LESSER HACKLE**, with a black body also, silver twist over that, and a red feather over all, will fill your pannier if the month be open, and not bound up in ice and snow, with very good fish; but in case of a frost and snow, you are to angle only with the smallest gnats, browns and duns, you can make, and with those are only to expect Graylings no bigger than Sprats.

4. In this month, upon a whirling round water, we have a **GREAT HACKLE**, the body black, and wrapped with a red feather of a capon untrimmed; that is, the whole length of the hackle staring out; for we sometimes barb the hackle-feather short all over; sometimes barb it only a little, and sometimes barb it close underneath, leaving the whole length of the feather on the top, or back of the fly, which makes it swim better, and, as occasion serves, kills very great fish.

5. We make use also, in this month, of another great hackle, the body black, and ribbed over with gold-

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The author is now in the month of *February*, during which are taken, the

(1) **PLAIN HACKLE**; which we would recommend to be made of black ostrich herl warped, or tied down to the dubbing with red silk, and a red cock's hackle over all,

twist,

twist, and a red feather over all; which also does great execution (2).

6. Also a GREAT DUN, made with dun bear's hair, and the wings of the grey feather of a mallard near unto his tail; which is absolutely the best fly can be thrown upon a river this month, and with which an angler shall have admirable sport.

7. We have also this month the GREAT BLUE DUN, the dubbing of the bottom of bear's hair next to the roots, mixt with a little blue camlet, the wings of the dark grey feather of a mallard.

8. We have also this month a DARK-BROWN, the dubbing of the brown hair off the flank of a brended cow, and the wings of the grey drake's feather.

And note, that these several hackles, or palmer-flies, are some for one water, and one sky, and some for another, and according to the change of those, we alter their size and colour: and note also, that both in this, and all other months of the year, when you do not certainly know what fly is taken, or cannot see any fish to rise, you are then to put on a small hackle, if the water be clear, or a bigger, if something dark, until you have taken one; and then thrusting your finger through his gills, to pull out his gorge, which being opened with your knife, you will then discover what fly is taken, and may fit yourself accordingly.

For the making of a hackle, or palmer-fly, my father *Walton* has already given you sufficient direction*.

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(2) GOLD-TWIST HACKLE; the same dubbing, warping and hackle, with gold-twist.

N. B. *These hackles are taken chiefly from nine to eleven in the morning, and from one to three in the afternoon. They will do for any month in the year, and upon any water.*

* But, with Mr. Cotton's good leave, he has not, nor has any author, that I know of, unless we are to take that for a palmer, which *Walton* has given directions for making, page 97, which I can never do till I see, what I have never yet seen, viz. Caterpillars with

M A R C H.

For this month you are to use all the same hackles, and flies with the other, but you are to make them less.

I. We

with wings. Rejecting, therefore, wings as unnatural and absurd; supposing you would make the plain hackle or palmer, which are terms of the same import, the method of doing it is as follows, *viz.*

Hold your hook in a horizontal position, with the shank downwards, and the bent of it between the fore-finger and thumb of your left hand; and, having a fine bristle, and other materials, lying by you, take half a yard of fine red marking-silk, well waxed, and, with your right hand, give it four or five turns about the shank of the hook, inclining the turns to the right hand: when you are near the end of the shank, turn it into such a loop as you are hereafter directed to make for fastening off, and draw it tight, leaving the ends of the silk to hang down at each end of the hook. Having singed the end of your bristle, lay the same along on the inside of the shank of the hook, as low as the bent, and whip four or five times round; then singeing the other end of the bristle to a fit length, turn it over to the back of the shank, and, pinching it into a proper form, whip down and fasten off, as before directed; which will bring both ends of the silk into the bent. After you have waxed your silk again, take three or four strands of an ostrich feather, and holding them, and the bent of the hook as at first directed, the feathers to your left hand, and the roots in the bent of your hook, with that end of the silk which you just now waxed, whip them three or four times round, and fasten off: then turning the feathers to the right, and twisting them and the silk with your fore-finger and thumb, wind them round the shank of the hook, still supplying the short strands with new ones, as they fail, till you come to the end and fasten off. When you have so done, clip off the ends of the feathers, and trim the body of the palmer small at the extremities, and full in the middle, and wax both ends of your silk, which are now divided and lie at either end of the hook.

Lay your work by you, and taking a strong bold hackle, with fibres about half an inch long, straiten the stem very carefully, and holding the small end between the fore-finger and thumb of your left hand, with those of the right, stroak the fibres the contrary way to that which they naturally lie; and taking the hook, and holding it as before, lay the point of the hackle into the bent of the hook with the hollow, which is the palest side, upwards, and whip it very fast to its place: in doing whereof, be careful not to tie

I. We have besides for this month a little Dun called a WHIRLING DUN (3), though it is not the Whirling

tie in many of the fibres; or if you should chance to do so, pick them out with the point of a very large needle.

When the hackle is thus made fast, the utmost care and nicety is necessary in winding it on; for if you fail in this, your fly is spoiled, and you must begin all again; to prevent which, keeping the hollow or pale side to your left hand, and, as much as possible, the side of the stem down on the dubbing, wind the hackle twice round, and holding fast what you have so wound, pick out the loose fibres, which you may have taken in, and make another turn: then lay hold of the hackle with the third and fourth fingers of your left hand, with which you may extend it while you disengage the loose fibres as before.

In this manner proceed till you come to within an eighth of an inch of the end of the shank, where you will find an end of silk hanging, and by which time you will find the fibres at the great end of the hackle somewhat discomposed; clip these off close to the stem, and, with the end of your middle finger, press the stem close to the hook, while, with the fore-finger of your right-hand, you turn the silk into a loop; which when you have twice put over the end of the shank of the hook, loop and all, your work is safe.

Then wax that end of the silk which you now used, and turn it over as before, till you have taken up nearly all that remained of the hook, observing to lay the turns neatly side by side; and lastly, clip off the ends of the silk: thus will you have made a bait that will catch Trout of the largest size, in any water in *England*.

And lest the method of fastening off, which occurs so often in this kind of work, should not appear sufficiently intelligible, the reader will see it represented Fig. 9. Plate X.

It is true, the method above described will require some variation in the case of gold and silver-twist palmers; in the making whereof, the management of the twist is to be considered as another operation; but this variation will suggest itself to every reader, as will also the method of making those flies, contained in the notes, that have hackle under the wings; which else we should have added to *Cotton's* directions for making a fly, which he gives *Viator* in the fishing-house. See Page 29 of this second Part.

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(3) GREAT WHIRLING DUN. Dub with fox cub, or squirrel's fur, well mixed with about a sixth part of the finest hog's-wool, warp with pale orange-wings, very large, taken from the quill-feather of a ruddy hen, the head to be fastened with ash-colour

Whirling Dun indeed, which is one of the best flies we have, and for this the dubbing must be of the bottom fur of a squirrel's tail, and the wing of the grey feather of a drake.

2. Also a BRIGHT BROWN, the dubbing either of the brown of a spaniel, or that of a cow's flank, with a grey wing.

3. Also

colour silk, a red cock's hackle, at full length, may be wrapped under the wings, and a turn or two lower towards the tail.

This is a killing fly, and is to be seen rising out of the sedges in most Trout rivers, late in the evening, seldom before sun-set, and continues on the water till midnight, or after. It is found most of the warm months; but kills chiefly in a blustering warm evening, from the middle of May to the end of July.

The directions of Mr. Cotton for making flies are to be considered as the very basis and foundation of that art, no author before him having ever treated the subject so copiously and accurately as he has done: what improvements have been made since his time; have been handed about in manuscript lists, but have hardly ever been communicated to the public.

A reverend, worthy, and ingenious friend of mine, a lover of angling, who has practised that and the art of fly-making these thirty years, and is the gentleman mentioned in the note, Page 228, has generously communicated to me the result of his many years experience, in a list of a great number of flies, not mentioned by Cotton, with some variations in the manner of making those described in the text. And as to these deviations, it is hoped they will be considered as improvements; since I am authorized to say, that the above gentleman has, in the making of flies, made it a constant rule to follow nature.

Part of this list is, for very obvious reasons, wrought into the form of notes on that of Mr. Cotton, and the rest with another very valuable catalogue, composed by a north-country angler, and communicated to me by the same gentleman, make N^o II. and III. of the *Appendix* to this Volume.

The reader will there also find N^o IV. a list of flies formerly published in the *Angler's Vade Mecum*, so often referred to in the course of this work; and though the flies therein contained are said to be chiefly of use in stony, I have tried some of them, especially the duns, in other rivers, and found them to be excellent.

3. Also a **WHITISH DUN** made of the roots of camel's hair, and the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

4. There is also for this month a fly, called the **THORN-TREE FLY**, the dubbing an absolute black mixt with eight or ten hairs of *Isabella* coloured * mohair, the body as little as can be made, and the wings of a bright mallard's feather, an admirable fly, and in great repute amongst us for a killer.

5. There is besides this, another (4) **BLUE DUN**, the dubbing of which it is made being thus to be got. Take a small-tooth comb, and with it comb the neck of a black greyhound, and the down that sticks in the teeth will be the finest blue that ever you saw. The wings of this fly can hardly be too white, and he is taken about the tenth of this month, and lasteth till the four and twentieth.

* *Isabella*, *Spezie di colore che partecipa del bianco e del giallo*. *Altieri's Dictionary*. A kind of whitish yellow, or, as some say, buff-colour a little soiled.

How it came by this name will appear from the following anecdote, for which I am obliged to a very ingenious and learned lady. The archduke *Albertus*, who had married the *Infanta Isabella*, daughter of *Philip* the second, king of *Spain*, with whom he had the Low Countries in dowry, in the year 1602, having determined to lay siege to *Ostend*, then in the possession of the heretics, his pious princess, who attended him in that expedition, made a vow, that till it was taken she would never change her clothes. Contrary to expectation, as the story says, it was three years before the place was reduced; in which time her highness's linen had acquired the above-mentioned hue.

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(4) **BLUE, or VIOLET DUN**. Dub with the roots of a fox-cub's tail, and a very little blue violet worsted, warp with pale yellow silk; wing of the pale part of a starling's feather.

Taken from eight to eleven, and from one to three.

This fly, which is also called the ash-coloured dun, and blue dun, is produced from a cadis; it is so very small, that the hook, known at the shops by the size N° IX. is full big enough for it, if not too big. The shape of the fly is exactly the same with that of the green-drake. So early in the year as February, they will drop on the water before eight in the morning; and Trouts, of the largest size, as well as small ones, will rise at them very eagerly.

6. From the tenth of this month also till towards the end, is taken a little BLACK GNAT; the dubbing either of the fur of a black water-dog, or the down of a young black water-coot, the wings of the male of a mallard as white as may be, the body as little as you can possibly make it, and the wings as short as his body.

7. From the sixteenth of this month also to the end of it, we use a BRIGHT BROWN, the dubbing for which is to be had out of a skinner's lime-pits, and of the hair of an abortive calf, which the lime will turn to be so bright as to shine like gold: for the wings of this fly, the feather of a brown hen is best; which fly is also taken till the tenth of *April*.

A P R I L.

All the same hackles and flies that were taken in *March*, will be taken in this month also, with this distinction only concerning the flies, that all the browns be lapt with red silk, and the duns with yellow.

1. To these a SMALL BRIGHT BROWN, made of spaniel's fur, with a light grey wing; in a bright day, and a clear water, is very well taken.

2. We have too a little (5) DARK BROWN, the dubbing of that colour, and some violet camlet mixt, and the wing of a grey feather of a mallard.

3. From

V A R I A T I O N S.

(5) DARK BROWN. Dub with the hair of a dark brown spaniel, or calf, that looks ruddy by being exposed to wind and weather, warp with yellow. Wing dark starling's feather.

Taken from eight to eleven.

This is a good fly, and to be seen in most rivers; but so variable in its hue, as the season advances, that it requires the closest attention to the natural fly, to adapt the materials for making it artificially; which is also the case with the violet or ash-coloured dun. When this fly first appears, it is nearly of a chocolate colour; from which, by the middle of May, it has been observed to deviate to almost a lemon colour: northern anglers call it, by way of eminence, the dark brown; others call it the four-winged brown: it has four wings lying flat on its back, something longer than the body,

wh.ch

3. From the sixth of this month to the tenth, we have also a fly called the VIOLET-FLY, made of a dark violet stuff, with the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

4. About the twelfth of this month comes in the fly called the WHIRLING DUN (6), which is taken every day about the mid-time of day all this month through, and by fits from thence to the end of June, and is commonly made of the down of a fox-cub, which is of an ash-colour at the roots, next the skin, and ribbed about with yellow silk, the wings of the pale grey feather of a mallard.

5. There is also a YELLOW DUN (7), the dubbing of camel's hair, and yellow camlet, or wool mixt, and a white grey wing.

6. There is also, this month, another LITTLE BROWN, besides that mentioned before, made with a very slender body, the dubbing of dark brown, and violet camlet mixt, and a grey wing; which, though the direction for the making be near the other, is yet another fly, and will take when the other will not, especially in a bright day, and a clear water.

7. About the twentieth of this month comes in a fly called the HORSE-FLESH FLY, the dubbing of which is a blue mohair, with pink-coloured, and red tammy mixt, a light coloured wing, and a dark brown

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which is longish, but not taper. This fly must be made on a smallish hook, viz. N^o 8, or 9.

(6) LITTLE WHIRLING DUN. The body fox-cub, and a little light ruddy brown mixed, warp with grey or ruddy silk, a red hackle under the wing; wing of a land-rail, or ruddy brown chicken, which is better.

A killing fly in a blustering day, as the great whirling dun is in the evening, and late at night.

(7) YELLOW DUN. Dub with a small quantity of pale yellow crewel mixed with fox-cub down from the tail, and warp with yellow; wing of a palish starling's feather.

Taken from eight to eleven, and from two to four.

See more of the Yellow Dun in the Appendix, N^o IV.

head.

head. This fly is taken best in an evening, and kills from two hours before sun-set till twilight, and is taken the month through.

M A Y.

And now, Sir, that we are entering into the month of *May*, I think it requisite to beg not only your attention, but also your best patience; for I must now be a little tedious with you, and dwell upon this month longer than ordinary; which that you may the better endure, I must tell you, this month deserves and requires to be insisted on; forasmuch as it alone, and the next following, afford more pleasure to the fly-angler than all the rest: and here it is that you are to expect an account of the green-drake, and stone-fly, promised you so long ago, and some others that are peculiar to this month, and part of the month following; and that, though not so great either in bulk or name, do yet stand in competition with the two before-named; and so, that it is yet undecided amongst the anglers, to which of the pretenders to the title of the *May-fly*, it does properly and duly belong; neither dare I, where so many of the learned in this art of angling are got in dispute about the controversy, take upon me to determine; but I think I ought to have a vote amongst them, and according to that privilege, shall give you my free opinion; and peradventure when I have told you all, you may incline to think me in the right.

Viat. I have so great a deference to your judgment in these matters, that I must always be of your opinion; and the more you speak, the faster I grow to my attention, for I can never be weary of hearing you upon this subject.

Pisc. Why that's encouragement enough; and now prepare yourself for a tedious lecture; but I will first begin with the flies of less esteem, though almost any thing will take a Trout in *May*, that I may afterwards insist the longer upon those of greater note and reputation;

reputation ; know therefore, that the first fly we take notice of in this month, is called

1. The **TURKEY-FLY**, the dubbing ravelled out of some blue stuff, and lapt about with yellow silk, the wings of a grey mallard's feather.

2. Next a **GREAT HACKLE**, or **PALMER-FLY**, with a **YELLOW BODY** ribbed with gold-twist, and large wings of a mallard's feather dyed yellow, with a red capon's hackle over all.

3. Then a **BLACK FLY**, the dubbing of a black spaniel's fur, and the wings of a grey mallard's feather.

4. After that a **LIGHT BROWN** with a slender body, the dubbing twirled upon small red silk, and raised with the point of a needle, that the ribs or rows of silk may appear through the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

5. Next a **LITTLE DUN**, the dubbing of a bear's dun whirled upon yellow silk, the wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

6. Then a **WHITE GNAT**, with a pale wing, and a black head.

7. There is also this month a fly called the **PEACOCK-FLY**, the body made of a whirl of a peacock's feather, with a red head, and wings of a mallard's feather.

8. We have then another very killing fly, known by the name of the **DUN-CUT** (8), the dubbing of which is a bear's dun, with a little blue and yellow mixt with it, a large dun wing, and two horns at the head, made of the hairs of a squirrel's tail.

9. The next is the **COW-LADY**, a little fly, the body of a peacock's feather, the wing of a red feather, or strips of the red hackle of a cock.

10. We have then the **COW-DUNO** fly ; the dubbing light brown and yellow, mixt, the wing the dark grey feather of a mallard. And note, that besides

(8) **DUN-CUT**. Dub with bear's cub fur, and a little yellow and green crewel, warp with yellow or green ; wing of a land-rail.

Towards the evening of a showery day a great killer.

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these

these above-mentioned, all the same hackles and flies, the hackles only brighter and the flies smaller, that are taken in *April*, will also be taken this month, as also all browns and duns : and now I come to my stone-fly, and green-drake, which are the matadores for Trout and Grayling, and in their season kill more fish in our *Derbyshire* rivers, than all the rest past, and to come, in the whole year besides.

But first I am to tell you, that we have four several flies which contend for the title of the *May-fly*, namely,

The GREEN-DRAKE,
The STONE-FLY,
The BLACK-FLY, and
The LITTLE YELLOW MAY-FLY.

And all these have their champions and advocates to dispute and plead their priority, though I do not understand why the two last named should ; the first two having so manifestly the advantage, both in their beauty, and the wonderful execution they do in their season.

11. Of these the *GREEN-DRAKE* comes in about the twentieth of this month, or betwixt that and the latter end ; for they are sometimes sooner, and sometimes later, according to the quality of the year ; but never well taken till towards the end of this month, and the beginning of *June*. The stone-fly comes much sooner, so early as the middle of *April* ; but is never well taken till towards the middle of *May*, and continues to kill much longer than the green-drake stays with us, so long as to the end almost of *June* ; and indeed, so long as there are any of them to be seen upon the water ; and sometimes in an artificial fly, and late at night, or before sun-rise in a morning, longer.

Now both these flies, and I believe, many others, though I think not all, are certainly and demonstratively bred in the very rivers where they are taken :

our cadis or cod-bait which lie under stones in the bottom of the water, most of them turning into those two flies, and being gathered in the husk, or crust, near the time of their maturity, are very easily known and distinguished, and are of all other the most remarkable; both for their size, as being of all other the biggest, the shortest of them being a full inch long, or more; and for the execution they do, the Trout and Grayling being much more greedy of them than of any others; and indeed the Trout never feeds fat, nor comes into his perfect season, till these flies come in.

Of these the green-drake never discloses from his husk, till he be first there grown to full maturity, body, wings, and all; and then he creeps out of his cell, but with his wings so crumpled and ruffled, by being pressed together in that narrow room, that they are, for some hours, totally useless to him; by which means he is compelled either to creep upon the flags, sedges, and blades of grass, if his first rising from the bottom of the water be near the banks of the river, till the air and sun stiffen and smooth them: or if his first appearance above water happen to be in the middle, he then lies upon the surface of the water like a ship at hull; for his feet are totally useless to him there, and he cannot creep upon the water as the stone-fly can, until his wings have got stiffness to fly with, (if by some Trout or Grayling he be not taken in the interim, which ten to one he is) and then his wings stand high, and closed exact upon his back, like the butterfly, and his motion in flying is the same. His body is, in some, of a paler, in others, of a darker yellow; for they are not all exactly of a colour, ribbed with rows of green, long, slender, and growing sharp towards the tail, at the end of which he has three long small whisks of a very dark colour, almost black, and his tail turns up towards his back like a mallard; from whence, questionless, he has his name of the green-drake. These, as I think I told you before, we commonly dape, or dabble with, and having gathered great store of them into a long draw-box, with

holes in the cover to give them air, where also they will continue fresh and vigorous a night or more, we take them out thence by the wings, and bait them thus upon the hook. We first take one, for we commonly fish with two of them at a time, and putting the point of the hook into the thickest part of his body, under one of his wings, run it directly through, and out at the other side, leaving him spitted cross upon the hook, and then taking the other, put him on after the same manner, but with his head the contrary way; in which posture they will live upon the hook, and play with their wings for a quarter of an hour or more: but you must have a care to keep their wings dry, both from the water, and also that your fingers be not wet when you take them out to bait them, for then your bait is spoiled.

Having now told you how to angle with this fly alive, I am now to tell you next, how to make an artificial fly, that will so perfectly resemble him, as to be taken in a rough windy day, when no flies can lie upon the water, nor are to be found about the banks and sides of the river, to a wonder, and with which you shall certainly kill the best Trout and Grayling in the river.

The artificial green-drake (9) then, is made upon a large hook, the dubbing, camel's hair, bright bear's hair, the soft down that is combed from a hog's bristles, and yellow camlet well mixed together, the body long, and ribbed about with green silk, or rather yellow, waxed with green wax, the whisks of the tail, of the long hairs of sables, or fitchet, and the wings of

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(9) GREEN-DRAKE, or MAY-FLY. The body of seal's fur, or yellow mohair, a little cub-fox down, and hog's wool, or light brown from a Turkey-carpet mixed, warp with pale yellow, pale yellow or red cock's hackle under the wings; wings of a mallard's feather, dyed yellow, three whisks in his tail from a sable muff.

Taken all day, but chiefly from two to four in the afternoon.

the

the white-grey feather of a mallard, dyed yellow, which also is to be dyed thus.

Take the root of a barbary-tree, and shave it, and put to it woody vifs, with as much allum as a walnut, and boil your feathers in it with rain-water, and they will be of a very fine yellow.

I have now done with the green-drake, excepting to tell you, that he is taken at all hours during his season, whilst there is any day upon the sky; and with a made-fly I once took, ten days after he was absolutely gone, in a cloudy day, after a shower, and in a whistling wind, five and thirty very great Trouts and Graylings, betwixt five and eight of the clock in the evening, and had no less than five or six flies, with three good hairs a piece, taken from me in despite of my heart, besides.

12. I should now come next to the stone-fly, but there is another gentleman in my way, that must of necessity come in between, and that is the GREY-DRAKE, which in all shapes and dimensions is perfectly the same with the other, but quite almost of another colour, being of a paler, and more livid yellow, and green, and ribbed with black quite down his body, with black shining wings, and so diaphanous and tender, cob-web like, that they are of no manner of use for daping; but come in, and are taken after the green-drake, and in an artificial fly kill very well; which fly is thus made (10); the dubbing of the down of a hog's bristles, and black spaniel's fur, mixed, and ribbed down the body with black silk, the whisks of the hairs of the beard of a black cat, and the wings of the black grey feather of a mallard.

VARIATIONS.

(10) GREY-DRAKE. The body of an absolute white ostrich feather; the end of the body towards the tail of peacock's herl; warping of an ash-colour with silver twist and black hackle, wing of a dark grey feather of a mallard.

A very killing fly, especially towards the evening, when the fish are glutted with the green-drake.

And now I come to the **STONE-FLY**, but am afraid I have already wearied your patience; which if I have, I beseech you freely tell me so, and I will defer the remaining instructions for fly-angling till some other time.

Viat. No, truly, Sir, I can never be weary of hearing you: but if you think fit, because I am afraid I am too troublesome, to refresh yourself with a glass and a pipe; you may afterwards proceed, and I shall be exceedingly pleased to hear you.

Pisc. I thank you, Sir, for that motion; for believe me I am dry with talking:—Here, boy, give us here a bottle, and a glass; and Sir, my service to you, and to all our friends in the South.

Viat. Your servant, Sir, and I'll pledge you as heartily; for the good powdered beef I eat at dinner, or something else, has made me thirsty.

CH A P. VIII.

VIATOR.

SO, Sir, I am now ready for another lesson; so soon as you please to give it me.

Pisc. And I, Sir, as ready to give you the best I can. Having told you the time of the stone-fly's coming in, and that he is bred of a cadis, in the very river where he is taken, I am next to tell you, that,

13. This same stone-fly has not the patience to continue in his crust, or husk, till his wings be full grown; but so soon as ever they begin to put out, that he feels himself strong, at which time we call him a **Jack**, squeezes himself out of prison, and crawls to the top of some stone, where if he can find a chink that will receive him, or can creep betwixt two stones, the one lying hollow upon the other, which, by the way, we also lay so purposely to find them, he there
lurks

lurks till his wings be full grown, and there is your only place to find him, and from thence doubtless he derives his name; though, for want of such convenience, he will make shift with the hollow of a bank, or any other place where the wind cannot come to fetch him off. His body is long, and pretty thick, and as broad at the tail almost as in the middle; his colour a very fine brown, ribbed with yellow, and much yellower on the belly than the back; he has two or three whisks also at the tag of his tail, and two little horns upon his head; his wings, when full grown, are double, and flat down his back, of the same colour, but rather darker than his body, and longer than it, though he makes but little use of them; for you shall rarely see him flying, though often swimming and paddling with several feet he has under his belly, upon the water, without stirring a wing: but the drake will mount steeple height into the air, though he is to be found upon flags and grass too, and indeed every where high and low, near the river; there being so many of them in their season, as were they not a very inoffensive insect, would look like a plague; and these drakes, since I forgot to tell you before, I will tell you here, are taken by the fish to that incredible degree, that, upon a calm day, you shall see the still deeps continually all over circles by the fishes rising, who will gorge themselves with those flies, till they purge again out of their gills*; and the Trouts are at that time so lusty and strong, that one of eight or ten inches long, will then more struggle, and tug, and more endanger your tackle, than one twice as big in winter: but pardon this digression.

This stone-fly then, we dape or dabble with, as with the drake, but with this difference, that whereas the green-drake is common both to stream and still, and to all hours of the day, we seldom dape with this but in the streams (for in a whistling wind a made-fly in

* I have caught a Trout so full of them, that in taking him off the hook, I have prest out of his throat a lump of them as big as a walnut.

the deep is better) and rarely but early and late, it not being so proper for the mid-time of the day; though a great Grayling will then take it very well in a sharp stream, and here and there a Trout too: but much better toward eight, nine, ten, or eleven of the clock at night, at which time also the best fish rise, and the later the better, provided you can see your fly, and when you cannot, a made-fly will murder, which is to be made thus: the dubbing of bear's dun with a little brown and yellow camlet very well mixed; but so placed that your fly may be more yellow on the belly and towards the tail underneath, than in any other part, and you are to place two or three hairs of a black cat's beard on the top of the hook in your arming, so as to be turned up, when you warp on your dubbing, and to stand almost upright, and staring one from another; and note that your fly is to be ribbed with yellow silk, and the wings long, and very large, of the dark grey feather of a mallard.

14. The next *May-fly* is the **BLACK-FLY**, made with a black body, of the whirl of an ostrich-feather, ribbed with silver-twist, and the black hackle of a cock over all; and is a killing fly, but not to be named with either of the other.

15. The last *May-fly*, that is of the four pretenders, is the **LITTLE YELLOW MAY-FLY**, in shape exactly the same with the green-drake, but a very little one, and of as bright a yellow as can be seen, which is made of a bright yellow camlet, and the wings of a white grey feather dyed yellow.

16. The last fly for this month, and which continues all *June*, though it comes in the middle of *May*, is the fly called the **CAMLET-FLY**, in shape like a moth, with fine diapered, or water wings, and with which, as I told you before, I sometimes used to dabble; and Grayling will rise mightily at it. But the artificial fly, which is only in use amongst our anglers, is made of a dark brown shining camlet, ribbed over with a very small light green silk, the wings of the double grey feather

feather of a mallard; and it is a killing fly for small fish, and so much for *May*.

J U N E.

From the first to the four and twentieth, the green-drake and stone-fly are taken, as I told you before.

1. From the twelfth to the four and twentieth late at night, is taken a fly, called the OWL-FLY (11), the dubbing of a white weasel's tail, and a white grey wing.

2. We have then another dun, called the BARM-FLY, from its yeasty colour, the dubbing of the fur of a yellow dun-cat, and a grey wing of a mallard's feather.

3. We have also a HACKLE with a PURPLE BODY, whipt about with a red capon's feather.

4. As also a GOLD-TWIST HACKLE with a purple body, whipt about with a red capon's feather.

5. To these we have this month a FLESH-FLY, the dubbing of a black spaniel's fur, and blue wool mixed, and a grey wing.

6. Also another little flesh-fly, the body made of the whirl of a peacock's feather, and the wings of the grey feather of a drake.

7. We have then the PEACOCK-FLY, the body and wing both made of the feather of that bird.

8. There is also the flying-ant, or ANT-FLY, the dubbing of brown and red camlet mixed, with a light grey wing.

9. We have likewise a BROWN GNAT, with a very slender body of brown and violet camlet well mixed, and a light grey wing.

V A R I A T I O N S.

(11) WHITE-MILLER, or OWL-FLY. The body of white ostrich herl, white hackle and silver-twist, if you please; wing of the white feather of a tame duck.

Taken from sun-set till ten at night, and from two to four in the morning.

10. And

10. And another little **BLACK GNAT** (12), the dubbing of black mohair, and a white grey wing.

11. As also a **GREEN GRASSHOPPER**, the dubbing of green and yellow wool mixed, ribbed over with green silk, and a red capon's feather over all.

12. And lastly, a little **DUN GRASSHOPPER**, the body slender, made of a dun camlet, and a dun hackle at the top.

JULY.

First all the small flies that were taken in *June*, are also taken in this month.

1. We have then the **ORANGE FLY** (13), the dubbing of orange wool, and the wing of a black feather.

2. Also a little **WHITE DUN**, the body made of white mohair, and the wings blue, of a heron's feather.

3. We have likewise this month a **WASP-FLY**, made either of a dark brown dubbing, or else the fur of a black cat's tail, ribbed about with yellow silk, and the wing of the grey feather of a mallard.

4. Another fly taken this month is a **BLACK HACKLE**, the body made of the whirl of a peacock's feather, and a black hackle-feather on the top.

5. We have also another, made of a peacock's whirl, without wings.

6. Another fly also is taken this month, called the **SHELL-FLY**, the dubbing of yellow green *Jersey* wool, and a little white hog's hair mixed, which I call the

VARIATIONS.

(12) **BLACK GNAT**. The body extremely small, of black mohair, spaniel's or ostrich feather; wing of the lightest part of a starling or mallard's feather.

A very killing fly in an evening, after a shower, in rapid rivers; as in Derbyshire or Wales.

(13) **ORANGE-FLY**. The body of raw orange silk, with a red or black hackle; gold-wire may be added, warp with orange.

Taken when the May-fly is almost over, and also to the end of June, especially in hot gloomy weather.

palma

palm-fly, and do believe it is taken for a palm, that drops off the willows into the water; for this fly I have seen Trouts take little pieces of moss, as they have swam down the river, by which I conclude that the best way to hit the right colour, is to compare your dubbing with the moss, and mix the colours as near as you can.

7. There is also taken this month, a **BLACK BLUE DUN**, the dubbing of the fur of a black rabbit mixt with a little yellow, the wings of the feather of a blue pigeon's wing.

AUGUST.

The same flies with *July*.

1. Then another **ANT-FLY**, the dubbing of the black brown hair of a cow, some red warpt in for the tag of his tail, and a dark wing; a killing fly.

2. Next a fly called the **FERN-FLY**, the dubbing of the fur of a hare's neck, that is of the colour of fern, or bracken, with a darkish grey wing of a mallard's feather; a killer too.

3. Besides these we have a **WHITE HACKLE**, the body of white mohair, and warped about with a white hackle-feather, and this is assuredly taken for thistle-down.

4. We have also this month a **HARRY-LONG-LEGS** (14), the body made of bear's dun, and blue wool mixt, and a brown hackle-feather over all.

Lastly, In this month all the same browns and duns are taken, that were taken in *May*.

VARIATIONS.

{14} **HARRY-LONG-LEGS**. Made of lightish bear's hair, and a dunnish hackle; add a few hairs of light blue mohair and a little fox-cub down, warp with light grey or pale blue silk; the head large.

Taken chiefly in a cloudy windy day. I have formerly, in the rivers near London, had great success, fishing with a long line, and the head of this insect only.

SEPTEMBER.

S E P T E M B E R.

This month the same flies are taken, that are taken in *April*.

1. To which I shall only add a CAMEL-BROWN fly, the dubbing pulled out of the lime of a wall, whipt about with red silk, and a darkish grey mallard's feather for the wing.

2. And one other for which we have no name; but it is made of the black hair of a badger's skin, mixed with the yellow softest down of a fanded hog.

O C T O B E R.

The same flies are taken this month, that were taken in *March*.

N O V E M B E R.

The same flies that were taken in *February* are taken this month also.

D E C E M B E R.

Few men angle with the fly this month, no more than they do in *January*: but yet, if the weather be warm, as I have known it sometimes in my life to be, even in this cold country, where it is least expected, then a brown that looks red in the hand, and yellowish betwixt your eye and the sun, will both raise and kill in a clear water, and free from snow-broth: but at the best, it is hardly worth a man's labour*.

* As the foregoing directions mention only the materials for making the several flies, the reader may yet be at a loss both with respect to their form and size; therefore we have, in Plate XI. given the five which may be considered as radical flies; and they are, the palmer, Fig. 11, the green-drake, 12, the dun-cut, 13, the hawthorn-fly, 14, and the ant-fly, 15. The two first are each a species by itself; the third is a horned fly; the fourth has hackle under his wings; and the fifth, as most flies of the ant-kind have, has

And now, Sir, I have done with fly-fishing, or angling at the top, excepting once more to tell you, that of all these, and I have named you a great many very killing flies, none are fit to be compared with the drake and stone-fly, both for many and very great fish; and yet there are some days, that are by no means proper for the sport; and in a calm you shall not have near so much sport, even with dapping, as in a whistling gale of wind, for two reasons, both because you are not then so easily discovered by the fish, and also because there are then but few flies that can lie upon the water; for where they have so much choice, you may easily imagine they will not be so eager and forward to rise at a bait, that both the shadow of your body, and that of your rod, nay, of your very line, in a hot,

has a large bottle-tail; and to one or other of these figures, it is imagined all flies are reducible.

In adjusting their different sizes, it must be owned there is great difficulty; all that can be said is, that the figures 11 and 12, exhibit the usual size of the palmer, the green and grey-drake: Fig. 13, may serve as a specimen for most flies that are not directed to be made large; and when directions are given to make the fly small, the reader is to consider Fig. 14, as an example. Gnats cannot be made too small.

Some, in making a fly, work it upon, and fasten it immediately to, the hook-link, whether it be of gut, grass, or hair: others whip on the shank of the hook a stiff hog's bristle bent into a loop; and concerning these methods there are different opinions.

I confess the latter, except for small flies, seems to me the more eligible way; and it has this advantage, that it enables you to keep your flies in excellent order; to do which, string them, each species separately, through the loops, upon a fine piece of cat-gut, of about seven inches long; and string also thereon, through a large pin-hole, a very small ticket of parchment, with the name of the fly written on it; tie the cat-gut into a ring, and lay them in round flat boxes, with paper between each ring; and when you use them, having a neat loop at the lower end of your hook-link, you may put them on and take them off at pleasure.

In the other way, you are troubled with a great length of hook-link, which, if you put even but few flies together, is sure to tangle, and occasion great trouble and loss of time. And as to an objection which some make to a loop, that the fish see it, and therefore will not take the fly, you may be assured there is nothing in it.

calm

calm day, will, in spite of your best caution, render suspected to them: but even then in swift streams, or by sitting down patiently behind a willow bush, you shall do more execution than at almost any other time of the year with any other fly; though one may sometimes hit of a day, when he shall come home very well satisfied with sport with several other flies: but with these two, the green-drake and the stone-fly, I do verily believe I could some days in my life, had I not been weary of slaughter, have loaden a lusty boy; and have sometimes, I do honestly assure you, given over upon the mere account of satiety of sport; which will be no hard matter to believe, when I likewise assure you, that with this very fly, I have in this very river that runs by us, in three or four hours taken thirty, five and thirty, and forty of the best Trouts in the river. What shame and pity is it then, that such a river should be destroyed by the basest sort of people, by those unlawful ways of fire and netting in the night, and of damming, groping, spearing, hanging and hooking by day; which are now grown so common, that though we have very good laws to punish such offenders, every rascal does it, for aught I see, *impunè*.

To conclude, I cannot now in honesty but frankly tell you, that many of these flies I have named, at least so made as we make them here, will peradventure do you no great service in your *southern rivers**; and

* The reader may rest assured, that with some or other of these flies, especially with the palmers or hachles, the great-dun, dark-brown, early and late-bright-brown, the black-gnat, yellow-dun, great-whirling-dun, dun-cut, green and grey-drake, camel-fly, cow-dung-fly, little ant-fly, badger-fly, and fern-fly, he shall catch Trout, Grayling, Chub, and Dace, in any water in *England or Wales*; always remembering, that, in a strange water, he first tries the plain, gold, silver, and peacock-hackle: of the truth of this he need not doubt, when he is told, that, in the year 1734, a gentleman, now living, who went into *Wales* to fish with the flies last above-mentioned, made as above is directed, did, in about six weeks time, kill near a thousand brace of Trout and Grayling, as appeared to him by an account, in writing, which he kept of

and will not conceal from you, but that I have sent flies to several friends in *London*, that for aught I could ever hear; never did any great feats with them; and therefore if you intend to profit by my instructions, you must come to angle with me here in the *Peak*; and so, if you please, let us walk up to supper, and to-morrow, if the day be windy, as our days here commonly are, 'tis ten to one but we shall take a good dish of fish for dinner.

C H A P. IX.

PISCATOR.

A GOOD day to you, Sir; I see you will always be stirring before me.

Viat. Why, to tell you the truth, I am so allured with the sport I had yesterday, that I long to be at the river again; and when I heard the wind sing in my chamber window, could forbear no longer, but leap out of bed, and had just made an end of dressing myself, as you came in.

Pisc. Well, I am both glad you are so ready for the day, and that the day is so fit for you; and look you, I have made you three or four flies this morning; this silver-twist hackle, this bear's dun, this light brown, and this dark brown, any of which I dare say will do; but you may try them all, and see which does best; only I must ask your pardon, that I cannot wait upon you this morning, a little business being fallen out, that for two or three hours, will deprive me of your company;

of each day's success. In confirmation whereof, and as a proof how the rivers in *Wales* abound with fish, the reader will find in the Appendix, No. V. a like account, kept by another person, of fish to an astonishing amount, caught by him in a series of years in some of the *Welsh* rivers; which account was sent by him to Mr. *Bartholomew Lowe*, fishing-tackle-maker, in *Drury-lane*, 24th Feb. 1766, and is inserted in his own words.

but

but I'll come and call you home to dinner, and my man shall attend you.

Viat. Oh! Sir, mind your affairs by all means; do but lend me a little of your skill to these fine flies, and unless it have forsaken me since yesterday, I shall find luck of my own I hope to do something.

Pisc. The best instruction I can give you, is, that, seeing the wind curls the water, and blows the right way, you would now angle up the still deep to-day; for betwixt the rocks where the streams are, you would find it now too brisk; and besides, I would have you take fish in both waters.

Viat. I'll obey your direction, and so a good morning to you. Come, young man, let you and I walk together. But hark you, Sir, I have not done with you yet; I expect another lesson for angling at the bottom, in the afternoon.

Pisc. Well, Sir, I'll be ready for you.

CHAP. X.

PISCATOR.

OH! Sir, are you return'd? you have but just prevented me. I was coming to call you.

Viat. I am glad then I have saved you the labour.

Pisc. And how have you sped?

Viat. You shall see that, Sir, presently, look you, Sir, here are three,* brace of Trouts, one of them the biggest but one, that ever I kill'd with a fly in my life; and yet I lost a bigger than that, with my fly to boot; and here are three Graylings, and one of them longer by some inches than that I took yesterday, and yet I thought that a good one too.

Pisc. Why you have made a pretty good morning's work on't; and now, Sir, what think you of our river Dove?

Viat. I think it to be the best Trout-river in *England*; and am so far in love with it, that if it were mine, and that I could keep it to myself, I would not exchange that water, for all the land it runs over; to be totally debarred from it.

Pisc. That compliment to the river, speaks you a true lover of the art of angling: and now, Sir, to make part of amends for sending you so uncivilly out alone this morning; I will myself dress you this dish of fish for your dinner; walk but into the parlour; you will find one book or other in the window to entertain you the while, and you shall have it presently.

Viat. Well, Sir, I obey you.—

Pisc. Look you, Sir; have I not made haste?

Viat. Believe me, Sir, that you have; and it looks so well, I long to be at it.

Pisc. Fall too then;—now, Sir; what say you, am I a tolerable cook or no?

Viat. So good a one; that I did never eat so good fish in my life. This fish is infinitely better than any I ever tasted of the kind in my life; 'tis quite another thing, than our Trouts about *London*.

Pisc. You would say so; if that Trout you eat of were in right season: but pray eat of the Grayling, which upon my word, at this time; is by much the better fish.

Viat. In earnest; and so it is: and I have one request to make to you, which is, that as you have taught me to catch Trout and Grayling, you will now teach me how to dress them as these are dressed, which questionless is of all other the best way.

Pisc. That I will, Sir, with all my heart, and am glad you like them so well as to make that request, and they are dressed thus.

Take your Trout, wash, and dry him with a clean napkin; then open him, and having taken out his guts, and all the blood, wipe him very clean within, but wash him not, and give him three scotches with a knife to the bone, on one side only. After which take a clean kettle, and put in as much hard stale beer, (but it must not

be dead) vinegar, and a little white wine and water, as will cover the fish you intend to boil; then throw into the liquor a good quantity of salt, the rind of a lemon, a handful of sliced horse-radish-root, with a handsome little faggot of rosemary, thyme, and winter-savory. Then set your kettle upon a quick fire of wood, and let your liquor boil up to the height before you put in your fish; and then, if there be many, put them in one by one, that they may not so cool the liquor as to make it fall; and whilst your fish is boiling, beat up the butter for your sauce with a ladle-full or two of the liquor it is boiling in, and being boiled enough, immediately pour the liquor from the fish, and being laid in a dish, pour your butter upon it, and strewing it plentifully over with shaved horse-radish, and a little pounded ginger, garnish your sides of your dish, and the fish itself with a sliced lemon or two, and serve it up.

A Grayling is also to be drest exactly after the same manner, saving that he is to be scaled, which a Trout never is: and that must be done either with one's nails, or very lightly and carefully with a knife, for fear of bruising the fish. And note, that these kinds of fish, a Trout especially, if he is not eaten within four or five hours after he be taken, is worth nothing.

But come, Sir, I see you have dined, and therefore if you please, we will walk down again to the little house, and there I will read you a lecture of angling at the bottom.

C H A P. XI.

V I A T O R.

SO, Sir, now we are here, and set, let me have my instructions for angling for Trout and Grayling at the bottom; which though not so easy, so cleanly, nor, as 'tis said, so genteel a way of fishing as with a fly is yet,

yet, if I mistake not, a good holding way, and takes fish when nothing else will.

Pisc. You are in the right, it does so: and a worm is so sure a bait at all times, that, excepting in a flood, I would I had laid a thousand pounds that I killed fish, more or less with it, winter or summer, every day throughout the year; those days always excepted, that, upon a more serious account always ought so to be. But not longer to delay you, I will begin, and tell you, that angling at the bottom is also commonly of two sorts; and yet there is a third way of angling with a ground-bait, and to very great effect too, as shall be said hereafter; namely, by hand, or with a cork or float.

That we call angling by hand is of three sorts.

The first with a line about half the length of the rod, a good weighty plumb, and three hairs next the hook, which we call a running line, and with one large brandling, or a dew-worm of a moderate size, or two small ones of the first, or any other sort, proper for a Trout, of which my father *Walton* has already given you the names, and saved me a labour; or indeed, almost any worm whatever; for if a Trout be in the humour to bite, it must be such a worm as I never yet saw, that he will refuse; and if you fish with two, you are then to bait your hook thus. You are first to run the point of your hook in at the very head of your first worm, and so down through his body, till it be past the knot, and then let it out, and strip the worm above the arming, that you may not bruise it with your fingers till you have put on the other, by running the point of the hook in below the knot, and upwards through his body towards his head, till it be but just covered with the head; which being done, you are then to slip the first worm down over the arming again, till the knots of both worms meet together.

The second way of angling by hand, and with a running line, is with a line something longer than the former, and with tackle made after this same manner. At the utmost extremity of your line, where the hook is

always placed in all other ways of angling, you are to have a large pistol, or carbine bullet, into which the end of your line is to be fastened with a peg, or pin, even and close with the bullet, and about half a foot above that, a branch of line, of two or three handfuls long; or more, for a swift stream, with a hook at the end thereof, baited with some of the forenamed worms, and another half foot above that; another, armed and baited after the same manner (but with another sort of worm, without any lead at all) above: by which means you will always certainly find the true bottom in all depths, which with the plumbs upon your line above, you can never do, but that your bait must always drag whilst you are sounding, which in this way of angling must be continually, by which means you are like to have more trouble, and peradventure worse success. And both these ways of angling at the bottom are most proper for a dark and muddy water, by reason that in such a condition of the stream, a man may stand as near as he will, and neither his own shadow, nor the roundness of his tackle, will hinder his sport.

The third way of angling by hand with a ground-bait, and by much the best of all other, is, with a line full as long, or a yard and half longer than your rod, with no more than one hair next the hook, and for two or three lengths above it, and no more than one small pellet of shot for your plumb, your hook little, your worms of the smaller brandlings very well scoured, and only one upon your hook at a time, which is thus to be baited. The point of your hook is to be put in at the very tag of his tail, and run up his body quite over all the arming, and still stript on an inch at least upon the hair, the head and remaining part hanging downward; and with this line and hook thus baited, you are evermore to angle in the streams, always in a clear rather than a troubled water, and always up the river; still casting out your worm before you with a light one-handed rod, like an artificial fly, where it will be taken, sometimes at the top, or within a very little of the superficies of the water, and almost always before that

light

light plumb can sink it to the bottom; both by reason of the stream, and also that you must always keep your worm in motion by drawing still back towards you, as if you were angling with a fly; and believe me, whoever will try it, shall find this the best way of all other to angle with a worm, in a bright water especially; but then his rod must be very light and pliant, and very true and finely made, which, with a skilful hand, will do wonders, and in a clear stream is undoubtedly the best way of angling for a Trout or Grayling with a worm, by many degrees, that any man can make choice of, and of most ease and delight to the angler. To which let me add, that if the angler be of a constitution that will suffer him to wade, and will slip into the tail of a shallow stream, to the calf of the leg or the knee, and so keep off the bank, he shall almost take what fish he pleases.

The second way of angling at the bottom is with a cork or float; and that is also of two sorts; with a worm, or with a grub or cadis.

With a worm you are to have your line within a foot, or a foot and half as long as your rod; in a dark water, with two, or if you will with three, but in a clear water never with above one hair next the hook, and two or three for four or five lengths above it, and a worm of what size you please, your plumbs fitted to your cork, your cork to the condition of the river, that is, to the swiftness or slowness of it; and both, when the water is very clear, as fine as you can; and then you are never to bait with above one of the lesser sort of brandlings; or, if they are very little ones indeed, you may then bait with two, after the manner before directed.

When you angle for a Trout, you are to do it as deep, that is, as near the bottom as you can, provided your bait do not drag; or if it do, a Trout will sometimes take it in that posture: if for a Grayling, you are then to fish further from the bottom, he being a fish that usually swims nearer to the middle of the water, and lies always loose; or however is more apt to rise

than a Trout, and more inclined to rise than to descend even to a ground-bait.

With a grub or cadis, you are to angle with the same length of line; or if it be all out as long as your rod, 'tis not the worse, with never above one hair for two or three lengths next the hook, and with the smallest cork, or float, and the least weight of plumb you can that will but sink, and that the swiftness of your stream will allow: which also you may help, and avoid the violence of the current, by angling in the returns of a stream, or the eddies betwixt two streams, which also are the most likely places wherein to kill a fish in a stream, either at the top or bottom.

Of grubs for a Grayling, the ash-grub, which is plump, milk-white, bent round from head to tail, and exceeding tender, with a red head; or the dock-worm, or grub of a pale yellow, longer, lanker, and tougher than the other, with rows of feet all down his belly, and a red head also, are the best; I say for a Grayling, because, although a Trout will take both these, the ash-grub especially, yet he does not do it so freely as the other, and I have usually taken ten Graylings for one Trout with that bait; though if a Trout come, I have observed, that he is commonly a very good one.

These baits we usually keep in bran, in which an ash-grub commonly grows tougher, and will better endure baiting; though he is yet so tender, that it will be necessary to warp in a piece of a stiff hair with your arming, leaving it standing out about a straw-breadth at the head of your hook, so as to keep the grub either from slipping totally off when baited, or at least down to the point of the hook, by which means your arming will be left wholly naked and bare, which is neither so lightly, nor so likely to be taken; though to help that, which will however very oft fall out, I always arm the hook I design for this bait with the whitest horse-hair I can choose, which itself will resemble, and shine like that bait, and consequently will do more good, or less harm, than an arming of any other colour. These
grubs

grubs are to be baited thus; the hook is to be put in under the head or chaps of the bait, and guided down the middle of the belly, without suffering it to peep out by the way; for then the ash-grub especially will issue out water and milk, till nothing but the skin shall remain, and the bend of the hook will appear black through it, till the point of your hook come so low that the head of your bait may rest, and stick upon the hair that stands out to hold it; by which means it can neither slip of itself, neither will the force of the stream, nor quick pulling out, upon any mistake, strip it off.

Now the cadis, or cod-bait, which is a sure killing bait, and for the most part, by much surer than either of the other, may be put upon the hook, two or three together, and is sometimes, to very great effect, joined to a worm, and sometimes to an artificial fly to cover the point of your hook; but is always to be angled with at the bottom, when by itself especially, with the finest tackle; and is for all times of the year, the most holding bait of all other whatever, both for Trout and Grayling.

There are several other baits besides these few I have named you, which also do very great execution at the bottom, and some that are peculiar to certain countries and rivers, of which every angler may in his own place make his own observation; and some others that I do not think fit to put you in mind of, because I would not corrupt you, and would have you, as in all things else I observe you to be a very honest gentleman, a fair angler. And so much for the second sort of angling for a Trout at the bottom.

Viat. But, Sir, I beseech you give me leave to ask you one question: is there no art to be used to worms, to make them allure the fish, and in a manner compel them to bite at the bait?

Pisc. Not that I know of; or did I know any such secret, I would not use it myself, and therefore would not teach it you. Though I will not deny to you, that in my younger days, I have made trial of oil of ospray,

oil of ivy, camphire, assa-foetida, juice of nettles, and several other devices that I was taught by several anglers I met with; but could never find any advantage by them, and can scarce believe there is any thing to be done that way; though I must tell you I have seen some men, who I thought went to work no more artificially than I, and have yet with the same kind of worms I had, in my own sight taken five, and sometimes ten for one. But we'll let that business alone, if you please; and because we have time enough, and that I would deliver you from the trouble of any more lectures, I will, if you please, proceed to the last way of angling for a Trout or Grayling, which is in the middle; after which, I shall have no more to trouble you with.

Viat. 'Tis no trouble, Sir, but the greatest satisfaction that can be, and I attend you.

CHAP. XII.

PISCATOR.

A NGLING in the middle then, for a Trout or Grayling, is of two sorts; with a pink or minnow for a Trout, or with a worm, grub, or cadis for a Grayling.

For the first, it is with a minnow half a foot, or a foot within the superficies of the water; and as to the rest that concerns this sort of angling, I shall wholly refer you to Mr. *Walton's* direction, who is undoubtedly the best angler with a minnow in *England*; only in plain truth I do not approve of those baits he keeps in salt, unless where the living ones are not possibly to be had; though I know he frequently kills with them, and peradventure more, than with any other; nay, I have seen him refuse a living one for one of them, and much less of his artificial one; for though we do it with a counterfeit fly, methinks it should hardly be expected, that a man should deceive a fish with a counterfeit

counterfeit fish. Which having said, I shall only add, and that out of my own experience, that I do believe a bull-head, with his gill-fins cut off, at some times of the year especially, to be a much better bait for a Trout than a minnow, and a loach much better than that; to prove which, I shall only tell you, that I have much oftener taken Trouts with a bull-head or a loach in their throats, for there a Trout has questionless his first digestion, than a minnow; and that one day especially, having angled a good part of the day with a minnow, and that in as hopeful a day, and as fit a water, as could be wished for that purpose, without raising any one fish; I at last fell to it with the worm, and with that took fourteen in a very short space; amongst all which, there was not to my remembrance, so much as one, that had not a loach or two, and some of them three, four, five, and six loaches, in his throat and stomach; from whence I concluded, that had I angled with that bait, I had made a notable day's work of it.

But after all, there is a better way of angling with a minnow, than perhaps is fit either to teach or to practise; to which I shall only add, that a Grayling will certainly rise at, and sometimes take a minnow, though it will be hard to be believed by any one, who shall consider the littleness of that fish's mouth, very unfit to take so great a bait: but is affirmed by many, that he will sometimes do it; and I myself know it to be true; for though I never took a Grayling so, yet a man of mine once did, and within so few paces of me, that I am as certain of it, as I can be of any thing I did not see, and, which made it appear the more strange, the Grayling was not above eleven inches long.

I must here also beg leave of your master, and mine, not to controvert, but to tell him, that I cannot consent to his way of throwing in his rod to an overgrown Trout, and afterwards recovering his fish with his tackle. For though I am satisfied he has sometimes done it, because he says so, yet I have found it quite otherwise; and though I have taken with the angle, I
may

may safely say, some thousands of Trouts in my life, my top never snapt, though my line still continued fast to the remaining part of my rod, by some lengths of line curled round about my top, and there fastened with waxt silk, against such an accident; nor my hand never slackt, or slipt by any other chance, but I almost always infallibly lost my fish, whether great or little, though my hook came home again. And I have often wondered how a Trout should so suddenly disengage himself from so great a hook, as that we bait with a minnow, and so deep bearded, as those hooks commonly are; when I have seen by the forenamed accidents, or the slipping of a knot in the upper part of the line, by sudden and hard striking, that though the line has immediately been recovered, almost before it could be all drawn into the water, the fish cleared, and gone in a moment. And yet to justify what he says, I have sometimes known a Trout, having carried away a whole line, found dead, three or four days after, with the hook fast sticking in him: but then it is to be supposed he had gorged it, which a Trout will do, if you be not too quick with him when he comes at a minnow, as sure and much sooner than a Pike; and I myself have also, once or twice in my life, taken the same fish with my own fly sticking in his chaps, that he had taken from me the day before, by the slipping of a hook in the arming; but I am very confident a Trout will not be troubled two hours with any hook, that has so much as one handful of line left behind with it, or that is not struck through a bone, if it be in any part of his mouth only; nay, I do certainly know, that a Trout, so soon as ever he feels himself prickt, if he carries away the hook, goes immediately to the bottom, and will there root like a hog upon the gravel, till he either rub out, or break the hook in the middle. And so much for this first sort of angling in the middle for a Trout.

The second way of angling in the middle, is with a worm, grub, cadis, or any other ground-bait for a Grayling; and that is with a cork, and a foot from the bottom,

bottom, a Grayling taking it much better there than at the bottom, as has been said before; and this always in a clear water, and with the finest tackle.

To which we may also, and with very good reason, add the third way of angling by hand with a ground-bait, as a third way of fishing in the middle, which is common to both Trout and Grayling, and as I said before, the best way of angling with a worm, of all other I ever tried whatever.

And now, Sir, I have said all I can at present think of concerning angling for a Trout and Grayling, and I doubt not have tired you sufficiently; but I will give you no more trouble of this kind, whilst you stay, which I hope will be a good while longer.

Viat. That will not be above a day longer; but if I live till *May* come twelvemonth, you are sure of me again, either with my master *Walton*, or without him; and in the mean time shall acquaint him how much you have made of me for his sake, and I hope he loves me well enough to thank you for it.

Pisc. I shall be glad, Sir, of your good company at the time you speak of, and shall be loath to part with you now; but when you tell me you must go, I will then wait upon you more miles on your way, than I have tempted you out of it, and heartily wish you a good journey.

It is a very common mistake to think that the only way to get a good result is to use a lot of force. In fact, the best results are often achieved by using a small amount of force, applied in a precise and controlled manner. This is why it is so important to have a good understanding of the mechanics of the system you are working with. Only by knowing exactly how the system works can you apply the right amount of force at the right time and in the right direction. This is the key to success in any technical field.

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1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]



A SHORT
DISCOURSE
BY WAY OF
POSTSCRIPT,
TOUCHING THE
LAWS of ANGLING*.

My good FRIEND,

I Cannot but tender my particular thanks to you, for that you have been pleased by three editions of your COMPLETE ANGLER, freely to dispense your dear-bought experiences to all the lovers of that art; and have thereby so excellently vindicated the legality thereof, as to divine approbation, that if I should go about to say more in that behalf, it indeed were to light a candle to the sun. But since all pleasures (though never so innocent in themselves) lose that stamp, when they are either pursued with inordinate affections, or to the prejudice of another; therefore as to the former, every man ought to endeavour, through a serious consideration of the vanity of worldly contentments, to moderate his affections thereunto, whereby they may

* This Discourse was first published with, and was printed at the end of the Third Edition of *Walton's* book; but, as the subject matter of it does as well relate to *Cotton's* part as the other, it was thought proper to transpose it.

be made of excellent use, as some poisons allayed are in physic: and as to the latter, we are to have recourse to the known laws, ignorance whereof excuseth no man, and therefore by their directions so to square our actions, that we hurt no man, but keep close to that golden rule, To do to all men, as we would ourselves be done unto.

Now concerning the Art of Angling, we may conclude, Sir, that as you have proved it to be of great antiquity, so I find it favoured by the laws of this kingdom; for where provision is made by our Statutes *primo Elizab. cap. 17.* against taking fish by nets that be not of such and such a size there set down, yet, those law-makers had so much respect to anglers, as to except them, and leave them at liberty to catch as big as they could, and as little as they would catch. And yet though this Apostolical recreation be simply in itself lawful, yet no man can go upon another man's ground to fish, without his licence, but that he is a trespasser; but if a man have licence to enter into a close or ground for such a space of time, there though he practise angling all that time, he is not a trespasser, because his fishing is no abuse of his licence: but this is to be understood of running streams, and not of ponds or standing pools; for in case of a pond or standing pool, the owner thereof hath a property in the fish, and they are so far said to be his, that he may have trespass for the fish against any one that shall take them without his licence, though it be upon a common, or adjoining to the king's highway, or adjoining to another man's ground, who gives licence: but in case of a river, where one or more have *liberta piscaria* only, it is otherwise, for there the fishes are said to be *fera natura*, and the taking of them with an angle is not trespass, for that no man is said to have a property in them till he have caught them: and then it is a trespass for any to take them from him. But this is not to be understood of fishes confined to a man's own ground by gates or otherwise, so that they cannot pass away, but may be taken out or put in at pleasure; for in that case the party

party hath a property in them, as in the case of a standing pool.

But where any one hath *separalis piscaria*, as in *Child and Greenbill's Case* in *Trin.* 15

Car. 1. in the *King's-Bench*, there it ^{3d Cro. 553.}

seemeth that the fish may be said to be his, because no man else may take them whilst they are within his several-fishing: therefore what is meant by a several-fishing is necessary to be considered. And though the difference between a free-fishing and a several-fishing, be often treated of in the antient books of the law, and some opinions will have the difference to be great, and others small or nothing at all; yet the certainest definition of a several-fishing is, where one hath the royalty, and oweth the ground on each side of the water; which agreeth with Sir *William Calthrop's* case, where an action was brought by him against another for fishing in his several-fishing, *&c.* to which the defendant pleaded, That the place wherein the trespass was supposed to be done, contained ten perches of land in length, and twenty perches in breadth, which was his own freehold at the time when the trespass was supposed to be done, and that he fished there as was lawful for him to do; and this was adjudged a good plea by the whole court: and upon argument in that very case it was agreed, that no man could have a several-fishing but in his own soil, and that free-fishing may be in the soil of another man; which was all agreed unto by *Littleton*, our famous *English* lawyer. So that from all this may be drawn this short conclusion, that if the angler take care that he offend not with his feet, there is no great danger of his hands.

Mich. 17 E. 4. 6.
and Pasch. 18 E.
4. 4.

But there are some covetous rigid persons, whose souls hold no sympathy with those of the innocent anglers; having either got to be lords of royalties, or owners of lands adjoining to rivers, and these do, by some apted clownish nature and education for the purpose, insult and domineer over the innocent angler,

beating

beating him, breaking his rod; or at least taking it from him *, and sometimes imprisoning his person as if he were a felon. Whereas a true-bred gentleman scorns those spider-like attempts; and will rather refresh a civil stranger at his table, than warn him from coming on his ground upon so innocent an occasion. It should therefore be considered how far such furious drivers are warranted by the law, and what the angler may (in case of such violence) do in defence of himself. If I come upon another man's ground without his licence, or the licence of the law, I am a trespasser, for which the owner may have an action of trespass against me; and if I continue there after warning to depart by the owner, or his servant thereunto authorized, the owner, or his servant by his command, may put me off by force, but not beat me, but in case of resistance by me, for then I (by resisting) make the assault; but if he beat me, I not resisting, in that case, he makes the assault, and I may beat him in defence of myself, and to free myself from his violence †. And in case I shall leave my rod behind in his ground, he may take it *damage feasant*, but he can neither take it from my person by force, nor break it, but he is a trespasser to me. Which seems clear by the case of *Mich. 7. Car. 1. Reynell and Champerton*, where *Reynell* brought an action of trespass against *Champerton* for taking and cutting his nets; the defendant justified for that he

* There is no reading this passage without figuring to one's imagination the poor, humble, patient angler, standing still and defenceless, while the merciless lord of the manor is laying him on with a stick, perhaps the butt of his own rod; or a worse weapon. I will not dispute with the author, whether the meekness and submission of the poor fisher upon this occasion are very becoming or not; but this sort of passive valour is rather to be admired than imitated. Yet has the angler his remedy, as the reader will see a few lines below.

† Agreeable to the rule contained in this barbarous distich;

Res dare pro rebus, pro verbis verba solemus,

Pro buis, busas, pro trufis reddere trufas.

Things must be recompens'd with things; buffets with blows,

And words with words, and taunts with mockes and mowes,

Dalton's Country Justice, Chap. 72.

was

was seised in fee of a several-fishing, and that the plaintiff with others endeavoured to row upon his water, and with the nets to catch his fish; and that for the safeguard of his fishing he took and cut the nets and oars; to which plea the plaintiff demurred; and there it was adjudged by the whole court, that he could not by such colour cut the nets and oars; and judgment was thereupon given for the plaintiff.

Doubtless our fore-fathers well considered, that man to man was a wolf*, and therefore made good laws to keep us from devouring one another; and amongst the rest a very good Statute was made in the three and fortieth year of *Queen Elizabeth*, whereby it is provided, that in personal actions in the courts at *Westminster*, (being not for land or battery) when it shall appear to the judges, (and be so by them signified) that the debt or damages to be recovered amount not to the sum of forty shillings or above, the said judges shall award to the plaintiff no more costs than damages, but less at their discretion.

And now with my acknowledgment of the advantage I have had both by your friendship and your book, I wish nothing may ever be that looks like an alteration in the first; nor any thing in the last, unless, by reason of the useful pleasure of it, you had called it the *ARCADIA* of ANGLING; for it deserves that title, and I would deserve the continuance of your friendship.

Since the writing the foregoing discourse, the laws of this country, relative to fish and fishing, have undergone such alterations as would alone justify an addition to it; but as it has, of late, been objected to all laws that assign an exclusive right in any of the creatures of God to particular ranks or or-

* A melancholy truth so universally acknowledged as to have given occasion to the proverb, *Homo homini lupus*. Vide *Erasmi Adagia*.

ders of men, that they favour of barbarism, and are calculated to serve the purposes of tyranny and ambition; it was thought necessary to trace the matter farther back, and shew from whence laws of this kind derive their force. And though it is not imagined that speculative arguments will operate upon men of licentious principles; yet as the general tenor of this work supposes the angler to be endued with reason, and under the dominion of conscience, it may not be amiss to state the obligation he is under to an observance of such laws, and to point out to him the several instances where he cannot pursue his recreation without the risque of his quiet.

Property is universally allowed to be founded on occupancy, the very notion of which implies industry, or some act in the occupant, of which no stranger has a right to avail himself: he that first took possession of an uncultivated tract of land, provided it was no more than necessary for the subsistence of himself and his family, became thereby the proprietor of such land.

Mr. Locke illustrates this doctrine by an elegant instance: "The water running in the fountain," says he, "is every one's; but that in the pitcher is his only who draws it." *On Government, Book II. Chap. V. Sect. 29.*

And if this reasoning be admitted in the case of land, which is ranked among the immoveable objects of property, it is much stronger in favour of things moveable, the right of which is at once claimed, and fortified by an actual possession and separation from that common mass in which they were originally supposed to exist.

But notwithstanding the innumerable appropriations which in the present civilized state of the world, appear to have been made, there are many things which may yet be said to be in common and in a state of natural liberty: in this class we may rank creatures *feræ naturæ*, beasts of chase, many kinds of fowl, and all fish. The fisherman in *Plautus* admits, that none of the fish were his, while they remained in their proper element,

element, and insists only on his right to those which he had caught. *Rudens*, Act 4. Scene 3. And both the *Yewish* and *Roman* lawyers assert, that wild beasts and fish belong only to those who take them*.

This notion has led many persons to imagine, that, even now, there subsists a general community of these creatures; and that, at this day, every one has a right to take them to his own use wherever he finds them. Not to insist, that if all men promiscuously were permitted the exercise of this right, it would be of very little benefit to any, it may suffice to say, that there are few civilized countries that have not found it necessary either for promoting some public good, or averting some public mischief, to controul it by express prohibitions; and how far such prohibitions are deemed lawful and binding on the consciences of those on whom they are imposed, will appear by consulting the authorities in the margin†; and it is worth noting, that laws made to prohibit the taking of creatures *feræ naturæ*, by persons unqualified, do not take from a man any thing which is his own; but they barely forbid the use of certain methods of acquisition, which the law of nature might, perhaps, allow of. *Puffendorf de Jure Nat. & Gent. Lib. IV. Cap. 6. §. 6. 7.*

* Selden *De Jure Nat. & Gent. juxta Discip. Ebræor. Lib. IV. Cap. 4. Infit. Lib. II. Tit. 1. De rerum divisione & acquirendo earum Dominio.* However, this is to be understood only in cases wherein there is no law to forbid it. Grot. *De Jure Belli ac Pacis, Lib. II. Cap. 2. §. 5.*

† Puffendorf *De Jure Nat. & Gent. Lib. IV. Cap. 6. §. 6.* Gudelin *De Jure Naturæ, Lib. II. Cap. 2. D. Lib. XLI. Tit. 2. De acquirend. rei administrand. Possess.* See also Garcilasso *de la Vega Comm. Reg. Lib. VI. Cap. VI.* Where it is said, that in Peru, hunting, by the inferior sort, is prohibited, lest, says the author, "men betaking themselves to the pleasure of the field, should neglect in a continued course of sports, and so neglect the necessary provision and maintenance of their families."

‡ See also Arnold *Vinn. ad Sect. 13. De Res. Divis.* And Ziegler on Grotius, *Lib. II. Cap. 2. §. 6.*

Agreeable to the principles here laid down, we find, that the laws of most countries, at least of this, have assigned the property in the creatures in question to particular persons: thus to royal fish, which are Whales and Sturgeons, the king is entitled by his prerogative*; and the property of fish in rivers, or at least, a right to take them, is, in many places, given to corporations; as with us, the fishery of the river *Thames* is granted to the city of *London*; and the townsmen of *Hungerford*, in *Berkshire*, claim a right of fishing in that part of the river *Kenney*, called their common water, under a grant from *John of Gaunt*, who, we may suppose, derived it from the crown†; but in most instances, fish belong to the owner of the soil.

These principles being recognized, and property once settled, it is easy to see the necessity and the justice of fencing it with positive laws; accordingly, in this country, judicial determinations have, from time to time, been made, ascertaining the rights of persons to fisheries; and these, together with the several statutes enacted to prevent the destruction of fish, compose the body of laws relating to fish and fishing; the former, by way of supplement to the foregoing discourse, are here laid down, and the latter will be referred to.

The property which the common law gives in river-fish uncaught, is of that kind which is called *special*, or qualified property; which see defined by Lord *Coke*, in his Reports, *Part 7. Fo. 17. b.* and is derived out of the right to the place or soil where such fish live: so that, supposing them, at any given instant, to belong to one person, whenever they resort to the soil or

* 7 *Coke* 16. The Case of Swans.

† The townsmen of *Hungerford* have a horn, holding about a quart, the inscription whereon affirms it to have been given by *John of Gaunt*, with the *Rial-fishing*, (so it is therein expressed) in a certain part of the river. *Gibb. Camden*, 166.

water of another, they become his property, and so *in infinitum*.

And to prove that this notion of a fluctuating or transitory property, is what the law allows, we need only apply it to the case of the water in a river; which is so constantly passing from the soil of one to another, that no man can, in strictness, be said to go twice to the same river; and yet, by a grant of any given quantity of land covered with water, which is the only legal designation of a river, not only a certain tract of the river, but the fish contained in it, shall pass, see *Coke on Littleton*, 4. a.

In the *Register*, a very ancient law-book, we find two writs relating to fish; the one, for the unlawful taking of fish in a several-fishery; and the other, in a free-fishery; and of these in their order.

A several-fishery, is that which a man is intitled to in respect of his being the owner of the soil, and is what no one can have in the land of another, unless by special grant or prescription; and whoever shall fish in such a several-fishery, without a licence, is liable to an action of trespass, in which the plaintiff may well demand; *wherefore, in the plaintiff's several-fishery, the defendant was fishing, and his fishes took, &c.* for though the fish be *feræ naturæ*, yet being taken in the water of the owner of the river, they are said to be *his* fish, without saying in his soil or water, 3d *Croke's Reports*, 553. *Child and Greenbill's case*; but he must set forth the nature and number of the fish taken, 5 *Coke's Reports*, 35. *Playter's case*, and 3d *Coke* 18.

A free-fishery is a right to take fish in the water and soil of another, and is derived out of a several-fishery. If one seized of a river, grants, without including the soil, a several-fishery, or, which amounts to no more than that, his water, a right of fishing passes, and nothing else. *Plowden's Commentary*, 154. b. *Coke on Littleton*, 4. b. and the word *several*, in such case, is synonymous with *sole*, and that in so strict a sense, that by such a grant not only strangers, but even the

owner of the soil, is excluded from fishing there. Co. Litt. 122. a. And further, where one prescribes to have a several-fishery in a water, which prescription always supposes a grant precedent, the owner of the soil, as much as a stranger, is liable to an action if he fishes there. 2 Roll. 258. the case of *Foriston and Gratchbrode* in the *Common Pleas*, Mich. 29. and 30 *Elizabeth*. But here the writ shall vary from that in the case of a several-fishery, and demand, *wherefore the defendant, in the free-fishery of the plaintiff, at N. without the licence and consent of the plaintiff, was fishing*, &c. expressing the nature and number of the fish taken; but because the soil does not pass by such a grant, and the fish are *feræ naturæ*, he shall not call them *his fish*, as in the former instance. See the case of *Child and Greenhill*, above cited.

The doctrine deducible from these principles is, that that which united with the soil, would be a several-fishery, when severed by grant, though the grant be of a several, or sole, and not of a free-fishery, *in terminis*, becomes a free fishery.

There is yet another case that I shall mention, which will give the intelligent reader a clear notion of this matter. A man grants to one, or more, a *liberty of fishing* *: here nothing but a naked right to fish passes, and the remedy against a trespasser is not severed from the soil; the owner whereof, and not the grantee, may maintain an action, and may also fish himself. Co. Litt. 122. a.

As common of fishing may be appendant to land, so also there may be a joint-tenancy, or a tenancy in common of a fishery. 1 Inst. 186. b.

* I find in *Dugd. Warw.* 1142, in *margin*, an account of the following grant, which for its singularity deserves notice.

31 Hen. III. "Thomas de Clinton, of Aminton, levied a fine to Phil. Marmon, that he and his heirs, his wife, and their heirs, might, when they came to Tamworth, or to their castle at Midleton, fish with a boat any where in his water at Aminton, with one net, called a *flew-net*, and a *tramil* and *jayna*: for which liberty he gave him six marks of silver."

Having

Having thus shewn in what cases the angler, in the pursuit of his recreation, may become a *trespasser*, let us next consider how far he is, by taking fish, in danger of committing *Larceny*; for that the taking fish out of a pond, without the consent of the owner, falls within my Lord *Coke's* definition of that crime, no one can doubt that reads it. His words are, "Larceny is the felonious, and fraudulent taking and carrying away, by any man or woman, of the mere personal goods of another; neither from the person nor by night, in the house of the owner," 3d *Inst.* 107. and a little after, 109. he expressly says, "Larceny may be committed of fishes in a pond."

Now, though to make the taking any personal thing felonious, reason and the law require, that the party should do it *animo furandi*, see *Bracton*, Lib. 3. Fol. 150. *Fleta*, Lib. 1. Cap. 36. which we will suppose no angler to be possessed with; yet whether by the word *pond*, we are to understand ponds at large, is perhaps of some consequence for him to know.

It is a rule in law, that personal goods, and things severed from the freehold, shall go to the executors, and not to the heir. *Wentworth's Office of an Executor*, Chap. 5. and so shall fish in a trunk, or the like, *ibid.* but Lord *Coke*, in his *Commentary on Littleton*, Fol. 8. tells us, that fish in a pond shall go with the inheritance, because, says he, "they were at their liberty, and could not be gotten without industry, as by nets or engines."

From hence we may conclude, that fish in ponds cannot be said to be *mere personal* goods, and then it follows as a consequence, that of such fish larceny cannot be committed; and we may further conclude, that the word *ponds*, in the above passage, must mean on'y *stew-ponds*, *cisterns*, or other such small receptacles of fish.

Many wholesome laws have, from time to time, been enacted, to prevent the destruction of fish; but they are so numerous, that I must refer the reader to the

Statutes at large, or to the Abridgment published by a late worthy and learned friend of mine, *John Cay, Esq;* deceased.

He may also see a discourse on the laws concerning angling, and for preservation of fish, at the end of *the Angler's Sure Guide*, written, as it seems, by the author of that book, with the learning and accuracy of an able lawyer.

APPEN-

All these produce flies with very large wings, like those of butterflies. The nymphæ of these (which are to spring from those small worms, and which like tortoises carry their houses about with them, within which they turn into nymphæ from which nymphæ afterwards spring little flies) Dr. Swammerdam refers to his fourth order of transmutations, whereas, in my opinion, they belong to the third, because they change their skin twice.

Another translation of this synopsis, too copious to be here inserted, together with many curious particulars concerning aquatic insects, is to be found in the *Natural History of Northamptonshire*, by the Rev. John Morton, chap. 7.

NUMBER II.

Referred to from Part II. page 46, *in notis.*

FEBRUARY.

PEACOCK-HACKLE. Peacock's herl alone, or interchanged with ostrich herl, warping red silk, red cock's hackle over all; it may be varied by a black cock's hackle and silver-twist.

Taken chiefly from nine to eleven in the morning, and from one to three in the afternoon.

This and the several other hackles, which we have here and hereafter described, being most tempting baits, should always be first tried when the angler comes to a strange river; and not changed till he has found out, and is certain what particular fly is upon the water.

MARCH.

GREEN PEACOCK HACKLE. Greenish herl of a peacock; warping, green silk, a black hackle over all.

Taken from eight to eleven in the morning.

ASH-COLOURED DUN. Dub with the roots of a fox-cub's tail; warp with pale yellow silk: wing of the pale part of a starling's feather.

Taken from eight to eleven, and from one to three.

This fly, which is also called the violet dun and blue dun, is to be found on almost every river; some particulars of it have been mentioned in the note, Part II. p. 47; but here follow some observations on it, which

deserve

deserve to be attended to. It varies much in its colour, according to the season of the year: in *March* and *September* it is called; and that very properly, the violet dun, for it has often that hue; and therefore, in the passage above referred to, we have directed the mixing blue-violet crewel with the fox-cub down. In *April* it assumes a pale ash-colour, and in *May* is of a beautiful lemon-colour, both body and wings. In *June* and *July* it is blue-black, and from *July* it insensibly varies till it becomes of its primitive colour, violet dun, which it never fails to do by *September*.

A P R I L.

PEARL-COLOUR, or HERON DUN. Dub with the yellowish or ash-coloured herl of a heron, warp with ash-coloured silk: wing from the short feather of a heron, or from a coot's wing; of an ash-colour.

Morning and afternoon.

BLUE DUN. Dub with the fur of a water-rat; warp with ash-colour; wing of a coot's feather.

Morning and afternoon.

M A Y.

SILVER-TWIST HACKLE. Dub with the herl of an ostrich-feather; warp with dark green, silver-twist, and black cock's hackle, over all.

Taken from nine to eleven, especially in a showery day.

SPOTY DUN. Dub with black spaniel's fur, or the herl of an ostrich; warp with green; wing, the dark part of a land-rail or coot.

Taken best in a showery day, as also in April or June.

LIGHT FLAMING, or SPRING BROWN. Dub with light brown of a calf; warp with orange-colour; wing of a pale grey mallard's feather.

Taken chiefly before sun-set in a warm evening—a good fly.

Although much is said, in the first part of the foregoing dialogues, of the Cak-fly, the author has given but a very superficial description of it, and his directions for making it are extremely imperfect; we would therefore
recom-

recommend the making it after the natural fly, and that according to the following directions.

OAK-FLY. By some called the ash-fly, (by others, erroneously, the hawthorn-fly.) The head, which is large, of an ash-colour; the upper part of the body greyish, with two or three hairs of bright brown mixt, and a very little light blue, and sometimes a hair or two of light green; the tail part is greyish mixt with orange: wing of a mottled brown feather of a woodcock, partridge, or brown hen; hook N^o 8 or 9. This is the fly which is seen much in *March, April, May, and June*, on the body of ash-trees, oaks, willows, and thorns, growing near the water, standing with its head downwards; it is an excellent fly, but difficult to imitate, being of many colours, unequally mixed. It takes chiefly in the morning; it does not seem to come from any cadis, for it never drops in great numbers on the water; and the wings are short, and lie flat on the back, like the blue bottle, or large flesh-fly.

ORANGE-TAWNEY, ORANGE-BROWN, CAMLET-FLY, ALDER-FLY, WITHTY-FLY, or BASTARD CADIS. Dub with dark brown spaniel's hair, or calf's hair, that shines, or barge-sail; warp with deep orange, black hackle under the wing: wing of a darkish feather of a mallard or starling.

Taken chiefly in a morning before the green-drake comes upon the water.

HUZZARD. Dub with pale lemon-coloured mohair, or ostrich feather dyed yellow; warp with yellow, gold-twist and yellow hackle over all. Wing of a very pale mallard's feather dyed of a lemon-colour, the wings large, and longer than the body, lying flat on the back.

Taken in a blustering day, before the May-fly comes in.

A fly little known, but the most beautiful of the insect species that frequent the water. It is larger than the green-drake; of a beautiful lemon colour, both body and wings, which are four in number, and lie close to its back. It is to be met with in but few rivers, and is therefore esteemed a great curiosity;

sity; in those rivers that produce them, they appear in great numbers about the latter end of *April*; at which time, and afterwards, the Trouts rise at them very eagerly: doubtless this is a true water-fly: it is supposed to be produced from a very large cadis.

DEATH-DRAKE. The body, one herl of black ostrich and two of peacock; silver-twist, black hackle: wing of the dark feather of a mallard, of a copper-colour.

Taken chiefly in an evening when the May-fly is almost gone.

YELLOW MILLER, or OWL-FLY. The body of a yellow marten's fur, or ostrich herl dyed buff colour: wing of the ruddy feather of a young peacock's wing, or pale brown chicken.

Taken from sun-set till ten at night, and from two till four in the morning.

J U N E.

The May-flies most of them as above.

J U L Y.

MIDDLING BROWN. Made of calf's hair twisted upon pale yellow silk, for the silk to appear: wing of a mallard's feather.

DARK BROWN. Warp with red silk, with a deep orange tag at the tail: wing of a mallard's feather.

WILLOW CRICKET, or SMALL PEACOCK FLY. A herl of a green peacock's feather; warp with green silk: wing of a starling's feather, longer than the body.

A morning fly, especially for Grayling in rapid rivers.

PISMIRE. The body, some few reeves of a cock-pheasant's tail-feather, or ruddy barge-sail, or brown carpet,

carpet, or old bear's-hair, towards the roots, tanned with the weather: one peacock's herl may be twisted with it: warp with ruddy silk: wing, the light part of a starling's feather, left longer than the body.

A killing fly after an emmet-flight, but not before.

AUGUST.

The pisinire through this month; as also the other flies of the last month.

SEPTEMBER.

LARGE FOETID LIGHT BROWN. The body of light calf or cow's hair, or seal's fur dyed of the colour; warp with ruddy or orange-coloured silk: wing, of a ruddy brown chicken large and long.

A killing fly in a morning. This fly is much upon Hackney river, and is much ruddier there than elsewhere. In the Thames I have caught with it dace of the largest size, and in great numbers. Somewhat of its history is given in the notes, page 230.

NUMBER III.

Referred to from Part II. page 46, in notis.

JANUARY.

SPRING BLACK. Body, black wool of a sheep's face, with or without a greenish peacock's herl; warp with brown silk: wing, the grey feather of a mallard.

SECOND SPRING BLACK. Body, the very blackest part of the darkest hare's scut you can procure, with or without a greenish peacock's herl: warp with ash-coloured silk; wing, of a fieldfare's feather.

This and the other spring black are best taken in bright weather.

BLOA * HERL. Body, black rabbit's scut; black of a hare's scut; greenish peacock's herl: warp with brown silk: wing, the light part of a fieldfare's feather.

BLACK HACKLE. Body, pale yellow silk, with a black cock's hackle turned about it.

DUN HACKLE. Body, dun-coloured silk, with a dun cock's hackle.

F E B R U A R Y.

The same flies as are directed for the preceding month.

M A R C H.

The same flies as are directed for the preceding months; and also the

TURKEY FLY, or MARCH FLY. Body, brown foal's hair, tops of the wings of a woodcock, some ruddy, others grey, well mixed together; warp with pink and yellow, or pink and light-coloured brown silk, twisted together: wing, of a pheasant-cock's feather.

N. B. *This, it is supposed, is the cob-fly, so much cried up in Wales.*

A P R I L.

LIGHT BLOA. Body, light fox-cub fur, a little light foal's hair; a little squirrel's bloa, and the whitish

* This is a north country word, and as I am told, signifies a colour resembling that of a mole's back, which has a bluish gloss. I find it thus explained in a catalogue of local words, communicated in a letter from Mr. Thoresby, of Leeds, to Mr. Ray, bloa, black and blue. Philosophical letters between the learned Mr. Ray, and several of his ingenious correspondents, *Office*, 1718, page 321.

yellow

yellow of the same, all these well mixed together; warp with yellow silk: wing, of a light fieldfare's feather.

DUN. Body, dunneft filmert * or martern's fuf; Indian fox-dun; light dun fox-cub; coarfe hair of the stump of a squirrel's tail of a brightish brown, or a yellowish cast; warp with yellow silk: wing, the light feather of a fieldfare.

PLAIN HACKLE. Body, black ostrich herl, with red or black cock's hackle over it; and in hot weather, add gold twist.

RED HACKLE. Body, red silk and gold-twist, and a red cock's hackle, till June. Afterwards use orange silk for the body. *An excellent fly.*

N. B. *This is more properly the orange-fly. It resembles in colour a Seville orange. Wings may be added, either of a ruddy hen or chicken, or of the softest feather of a rook's wing; the first will give it an orange, the latter a dunnish hue. It has four wings, two next the body, of a very dark grey colour, and two serving as a case over them, sometimes of a dirty blackish colour, and sometimes of an orange colour.*

BLOA WATCHET *. Is a small fly, and appears on the water in a cold day (hook N^o 9 or 10.) the body, fur of a water-rat, black part of a hare's scut, the pale roots cut off, a very little brown bear's hair: warp with pale brown, or olive-coloured silk: wing of a hen blackbird.

YELLOW WATCHET. Body, water-rat's fur, the blackest part of a hare's scut, greenish yellow crewel

* *Filmert.* This is the animal which Walton, p. 11. calls the *fulmart*: but the former is a name by which it is very well known at the furrier's.

+ *Watchet.* *Color caeruleus albicans,* Skinner. Pale or sky-blue.

for feet; warp with green silk: wing, the lightest part of a blackbird's feather. Hook; N^o 9 or 10:

KNOTTED GREY GNAT. Body, darkest part of a hare's scut, dark brown foal's hair; dark fur of the black of an old fox; warp with grey silk: wing, the bloa feather of a fieldfare.

GREEN-TAIL. Body, dark part of a hare's scut, and darkest bloa fur of an old fox; light part of a squirrel's tail, and a hair or two of the coarse brownish part of it for feet; warp with ash-coloured silk: wing, of a hen pheasant:

SAND FLY. Body, dark brown foal's hair, a little bloa squirrel's fur, and the whitish yellow of the same; warp with yellow silk: wing, the light part of a fieldfare's feather.

M A Y.

The nine foregoing flies directed for *April*, and also the

BLOA HERL. Body, fox's fur, dark part of a hare's scut, greenish herl of a peacock (if the weather is warm for the season, otherwise little or none of the greenish herl;) warp with brown silk: wing, of a starling's feather.

DUN. Body, dunnish bloa fur of an old fox, mixed with pale yellow, the ends of the hairs of an old fox almost red; some coarse hairs taken out of the tail or brush; warp with yellow: wing, starling's feather.

STONE-GNAT. Body, the roots of the darkest part of a hare's scut, the top or ends being cut off; warp with ash-coloured silk: wing, a blackbird's feather.

D d

LIGHT

LIGHT BLOA. Body, light fur of an old fox, mixed with pale yellow crewel; warp with pale yellow silk: wing, light feather of a jay.

ORANGE BROWN. Body, orange-coloured wool, with bright brown bear's hair mixed; warp with orange silk: wing, of a starling's feather.

PEACOCK HACKLE. Body, peacock's ruddy herl, red cock's hackle; warp with red silk.

BLACK HERL. Body, black herl of an ostrich, and ruddy herl of a peacock, twisted together; warp with brown silk: wing, the light feather of a field-fare.

PEWET, or LAPWING'S TOPPING. Body, peacock's herl, and that of a lapwing's crown feather, twisted together; warp with red silk: wing, the red feather of a partridge's tail.

RED HERL. Body, two herls of a peacock, twisted together; warp with ruddy silk: wing, the red feather of a partridge's tail.

J U N E.

The dun, stone-gnat, light bloa, orange brown, peacock hackle, black herl, pewet's topping, and red herl of the last month, go also through this; there are likewise taken the

WHITTERISH. Body, the root-end of the white part of a hare's scut; light grey foal's hair, or camel's hair, towards the tail, the dark part of a hare's scut with some brown hairs mixed: peacock's herl for the head;

head; warp with white silk: wing, the feather of a sea-mew.

LIGHT GREY. Body, fur of the inner part of a rabbit's leg, the lightest of the dark part of a hare's scut; warp with ash-coloured silk: wings, light grey mallard's feather.

J U L Y.

The peacock hackle, black herl, pewet's topping, and red herl of *May* and *June*, and the whitterish and light-grey of the last month serve also for this, and to those add the

BROWN. Body, hair of a very light brown or reddish calf or spaniel, and light bear's hair mixed; warp with pale orange: wing, the feather of a land-rail.

A U G U S T.

The peacock hackle, and the three following flies of *May*, and the two subsequent months, and the brown of the last month, serve also for this; in which also are taken the

GREY-FLY. Body, light grey foal's hair mixed with the dark part of a hare's scut; warp with grey silk: wing, a hen-pheasant's feather.

BLACK ANT-FLY. Body, darkest part of a hare's scut, and dark brown wool, or sheep's russet, equally mixed; and one single ruddy herl of a peacock, all twisted together; warp with copper-coloured silk: wing, a fieldfare's feather.

BROWN ANT-FLY. Body, bright brown bear's hair, much weather beaten, almost of an orange-colour towards the tail, and therefore a few hairs of a light brown, or flame-coloured calf, or spaniel's hair to be added in the tail-part; warp with orange-coloured silk: wing, the light feather of a fieldfare or starling.

Note, *The Black and the Brown Ant Fly I have studied to imitate with other materials, and have found them succeed very well, made as follows:*

D d 2

Black

Black Ant. *Brown bear's hair, and a little grey squirrel's hair next the roots, peacock herl; warp with copper-colour or ash.*

Brown Ant. *Light barge-sail, seal's fur and brown bear's hair, peacock herl; warp with orange: wings of this and the former, starling's feather longer than the body.*

NUMBER IV.

Referred to from Part II. page 46, in *notis*.

FEBRUARY.

PRIME DUN. Dubbing, of the down of a fox-cub, warped with sad ash-coloured silk; wings, of the feather got from the quill of a *shepfare's wing. This fly is made little, but there is another made of the same dubbing larger by far.

MARCH.

The same flies as are taken in *February* will be taken in *March*, and also those hereafter mentioned.

MOORISH BROWN. Dubbing of the wool of a black sheep; warped with red silk: wings, of the feather got from a partridge wing.

PALM-FLY. Dubbing, of the hair of a brown spaniel, got on the outside of the ear; and a little sea-green wool mixed, warped with brown cloth-coloured silk: wings, of a shepfare's quill-feather.

GREEN-TAIL. Dubbing, of the brown hair of a spaniel, got on the outside of the ear, but a little in the end of the tail; must be all of sea-green wool, without mixture: wings as the last.

* The reader is to note, that shepfare, stare, and starling, are words synonymous. Vid. *Minghen's Dict. Voc STARE.*

APRIL,

APRIL.

BRIGHT BEAR. Dubbing, of bright bear's hair; warped with sad cloth-coloured silk: wings, of a shep-stare's quill feather: others dub the body with yellow silk, which is better.

YELLOW DUN. Dubbing, of yellow wool, and ash-coloured fox-cub down mixed together, dubbed with yellow silk: wings, of the feather of a shep-stare's quill: others dub it with dun bear's hair, and the yellow fur got from a martern's skin, mixed together, and with yellow silk: wings, of a shep-stare's quill-feather. Make two other flies, their bodies dubbed as the last; but in the one mingle fanded hog's down; and in the other black hog's down: wings, of a shep-stare's quill-feather: and there is also taken an excellent fly, made of dun bear's hair, yellow martern's fur, fanded hog's down, and black hog's down, all mixed in an equal proportion together; warped with yellow silk: wings of the feather of a shep-stare's quill. These several flies mentioned for *April*, are very good, and will be taken all the spring and summer.

M A Y.

THORN-FLY. Dubbing, of black lamb's wool, warped with black silk; wings of a mallard's light grey feather.—*Note, That in all the instances where mallards feathers are directed to be used for wings, they must be those of the wild, and not the tame mallard.*

KNOP-FLY. Dubbing, of the down of an otter-cub, and the herl of a peacock; warped with black silk: wings of the light grey feather of a mallard.

FERN-BUD. This fly is got on fern; and the natural one is very good to dib with; it has a short thick body, of a very sad greenish colour, and two pair of

A P P E N D I X:

wings; the uppermost are hard, and sometimes taken off; but the undermost diaphanous, and it is dubbed with the herl of a peacock, and very sad green silk: wings, of the feather of a fieldfare's quill got out of the wing.

LITTLE DUN. Dubbing, of an otter's fur; warped with ash-coloured silk: wings, of a shepfare's quill-feather.

YELLOW MAY FLY. Dubbing, of yellow wool, mixed with yellow fur of a martern; warped with yellow silk: wings of the lightest-coloured feather of a throftle.

J U N E.

BLACK MIDGE, or GNAT. Dubbing, of the down of a mole; warped with black silk: wings, of a light grey shepfare's quill-feather.

GREY MIDGE, or GNAT. Dubbing, of the down of a sad grey cat, or sad grey camel's hair; warped with grey silk: wings of the grey feather of a mallard.

PURPLE-FLY. Dubbing, of purple wool, and a little bear's hair mixed; sometimes no bear's hair at all: wings, of a shepfare's quill feather; warped with purple silk.

SAND-FLY. Dubbing, of the wool gotten off the flank of a black sheep, warped with black silk: wings, of the sad-coloured feather of a throftle-quill; others make the body of the feather of a heron's neck.

MACKERIL. Dubbing, of light brown camel's hair; warped with black silk: wings, of a red cock's feather.

J U L Y.

BLUE DUN. Dubbing, of the down of a water-mouse, and the bluish dun of an old fox mixed together;

ther; warped with sad ash-coloured silk: wings, of a shepftare's quill-feather.

AUGUST.

BUSS BROWN. Dubbing, of the light brown hair of a cur; the head black: wings, of the feather of a red hen; warped with orange-coloured silk.

HEARTH-FLY. Dubbing, of the wool of an old black sheep, with some grey hairs in it, for the body and head: wings of a light shepftare's quill-feather, warped on with black silk.

PISMIRE-FLY. Dubbing, of bright brown bear's hair, warped with red silk: wings, of the saddest-coloured shepftare's quill-feather. *A good fly.*

SEPTEMBER.

LITTLE BLUE DUN. Dubbing, of the down of a mouse for body and head; warped with sad ash-coloured silk: wings, of a sad-coloured shepftare's quill-feather.

NUMBER V.

Referred to from Part II. page 65, *in notis.*

Ten Years, one Month, and five Days Angling.

F ISH taken in the counties of <i>Carmarthen</i> and <i>Glamorgan</i> , commencing 11th April, 1753, to the 10th April, 1754, inclusive,	}	6272
Ditto in the counties of <i>Pembroke</i> , <i>Carmarthen</i> , <i>Glamorgan</i> , and <i>Derby</i> , from 11th April, 1754, to 24th October following,		
D d 4		1756

1756	Ditto in the counties of <u>Yark, Salop,</u> and <u>Glamorgan,</u>	3736
1757	Ditto in the county of <u>Glamorgan,</u>	9272
1758	Ditto in the counties of <u>Glamorgan,</u> <u>Brecon, Radnor, and Hereford,</u>	7762
1759	Ditto in the same counties, —	3490
1760	Ditto in the county of <u>Glamorgan,</u>	2150
1761	Ditto in the same county, —	2522
1762	Ditto in the counties of <u>Glamorgan and</u> <u>Carmarthen,</u>	3183
1763	Ditto in the county of <u>Carmarthen,</u>	3158
1764	Ditto in the county of <u>Carmarthen,</u> to 23d July, being my last day's an- gling in the principality, —	1814

The whole given to the public, 47120

The rich, the poor, the sick, and the healthy, have tasted of the labour of my hands.

In the first nine months in the year 1751, I took in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen, above a thousand trouts, and though I have taken trouts in every month in the year since, yet I could not in any one year reach that number: perhaps I have done it before 1751, but I did not then keep an account all the year round, only noted those days in which I had diversion more than common.

N. B. There were some *pike and chub, eel and flounder,* taken, which are not noted in the above account.

If I had had the honour of an acquaintance with this keen and laborious Sportsman, I might possibly at times have checked him in the ardor of his pursuit, by reminding him of that excellent maxim. *Ne quid nimis, i. e. Nothing too much.* The pleasure of angling consists not so much in the number of fish we catch, as in the exercise of our art, the gratification of our hopes, and the reward of our skill and ingenuity: were it possible for an Angler to be sure of every cast of his fly, so that for six hours together his hook should never come home without a fish at it, angling would be no more a recreation than the sawing of stone or the pumping of water.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

Containing additional RULES and CAUTIONS,

I. **W**HEN you have hooked a fish, never suffer him to run out with the line: but keep your rod *bent*, and as near *perpendicular* as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the straining of your line: for the same reason,

II. Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking the hair to which your hook is fastened, or indeed any part of the line into your hand; but either put a *landing-net* under him, or for want of that, your *bat*: you may indeed in fly-fishing, lay hold of your line to draw a fish to you; but this must be done with caution.

III. Your silk for whipping hooks and other fine work, must be very small; use it *double* and *wax* it, and indeed any other kind of binding, with *shoemaker's wax*, which of all wax, is the toughest, and holds best: if your wax is too stiff, temper it with tallow.

IV. If for strong fishing, you use *grass*, which when you can get it fine, is to be preferred to *gut*, remember always to *soak* it about an hour in water before you use it: this will make it tough, and prevent its kinking.

V. Whenever you begin fishing, *wet the ends* of the joints of your rod; which, as it makes them swell, will prevent their loosening. And,

VI. If you happen with rain or otherwise to wet your rod, so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrule a few times round in the flame of a *candle*, and they will easily separate.

VII. Before you fix the loop of bristle to your hook, in order to make a fly, to prevent its drawing, be sure to *singe* the ends of it in the flame of a candle; do the same by the hair, to which at any time you whip a hook,

VIII. Make

VIII. Make flies in *warm* weather only; for in *cold* your waxed silk will not *draw*.

IX. In rainy weather, or when the season for fishing is over, repair whatever damage your tackle has sustained.

X. Never regard what *bunglers* and *slovens* tell you, but believe that *neatness* in your tackle, and a *nice* and *curious* hand in all your work, especially in fly-making, are absolutely necessary.

XI. Be ever so provided as to be able to help yourself in all exigencies; nor deem it a small incivility to interrupt your companion in his sport, by frequently calling to him to lend you a *plummet* or a *knife*; or to supply you with a *hook*, a *float*, a few *shot*, or any thing else that you ought to be furnished with before you set out for your recreation.

XII. Never fish in any water that is not common, without leave of the *owner*, which is seldom denied to any but those who do not deserve it.

XIII. If at any time you happen to be overheated with walking, or other exercise, avoid small liquors, especially water, as you would poison; and rather take a glass of *rum* or *brandy*; the instantaneous effects whereof, in cooling the body, and quenching drought, are amazing.

XIV. Never be tempted in the pursuit of your recreation to *wade*; at least not as I have seen some do to the waist. This indiscrete practice has been known to bring on fevers that have terminated in abscesses, and endangered the loss of a limb.

XV. Never to preserve the character of an expert Angler be guilty of that mean practice of *buying fish** of

* There are others to whom this caution against buying fish may be useful. One of the greatest temptations to the fishing with unlawful nets in the *Thames* near *London*, is the high price which by an artifice some of the scaly kinds of fish, that is to say *roach* and *dace* are made to fetch; for the takers of such, first *scrape off the scales*, and sell them by the pound to the necklace-makers, (who make thereof a kind of *Amalgama*, with which they cover wax beads, and thereby imitate pearls,) and having so done, they cry the smallest and very refuse of the fish about the streets, and sell them to ignorant housekeepers for *gudgeons*.

such of your fellow sportsmen as have had better success than yourself; thereby giving occasion for that bitter sarcasm, the more bitter for being true: "They were caught with a *silver hook*."

XVI. Remember, that the wit and invention of mankind were bestowed for other purposes than to *deceive silly fish*; and that however delightful angling may have been made to appear, by the foregoing pages, it ceases to be innocent when used otherwise than as a mere recreation.

XVII. Lastly, When seated under a shady tree, on the side of a pleasant river, or moving about on the banks of it, thou art otherwise pursuing thy recreation; when the *gliding of waters*, the *singing of birds*, the *bleating of flocks*, the *lowing of cattle*, and the *view of delightful prospects*, and the various occupations of rural industry, shall dispose thee to thought and reflection; let the *beauties of nature*, the *power, wisdom and goodness of the Almighty*, as manifested in the production of his creatures; the *order and course of his providence in their preservation*, the *rewards of a good life*, and the *certainty of thy end*, be the subjects of thy meditation.

NUMBER VII.

ECLOGA PISCATORIA,

A METASTASIO, *ut dicitur.*

Candida vitæ
Gaudia nescit,
Ah miser ! ille,
Qui requievit
Littore nunquam
Mollis arenæ
Pone reclinis;

Grata Favoni
Quum levis aura,
Vespere sero
Fluctibus orta,
Flamine leni
Pectore mulcens
Æquora crispat :

Nox

Nox ubi fuscis
 Evolat alis,
 Quot micat ardens
 Ignibus æther
 Unda relucet,
 Fractaque *Phæbes*
 Æquore glauco
 Ludit imago
 Lactea, splendet
 Sub tremebundo
 Lumine pontus,
 Et tua, *Triton*,
 Buccina torta
 Noctæ silenti
 Littora complet,
 (Blanda palustris
 Fistula cede,
Pan, licet *Areas*
 Inisset avenam!)
 Saxaque latè
 Reddere discunt
Doridos ignes,
*Leucothoe*ve,
 Vel *Galathea*
 Grata *Sicano*
 Furta sub antrò,
 Quæ fovet ulnis
Acida Divum;
 Dumque nasanti
 Lumine languens
 Murmure leni,
 Basia sugens
 Comprimit arcè
 Pectore pectus
 Aurea nymphè;
 Spretus amator
 (Ardua moles)
 Heu fremit atrox
 Ore cruento,
 Cunctaque latè

Voce tonanti
 Semifer implet:
 (*Scylla* relatrat
Ætna remugit)
 Tum furibundis
 Passibus errans,
 Sanguinolentum
 Luminis orbem
 Sævè volutans,
 Singula lustrat,
 Cernere si quæ
 Possit amantes,
 Raptaque dextrâ
 Pallida membra
 Fulminis instar
 Frangens heu! heu!
 Vindice saxo.

Ergo age tandem
 Spernere mitte
 Gurgitis almi
 Littora grata,
 Gratiôr ipsa
 Rustica *Phylli*,
 Ipsa *Dione*,
 Ipsa puelli
 Arciterientis
 Aurea mater,
 Aurea quæ nunc
 Ore nitenti
 Numina captat;
 Blanda marinæ
 Filia spumæ
 Edita ponto est;
 Nunc quoque pontum
 (Æthere spreto)
 Sæpe revicens,
 Alite curru
 Diva serenis
 Labitur undis,
 Collaque olorum

Flori-

Floribus atque
 Flectit habenâ ;
Æolus Euro
 Lora frementi
 Contrahit arctè ;
 At tibi laxat,
 Alme *Favoni*,
 Purpureisque
 Exsilis alis,
 Moxque reportans
 Conjugis horto
 Sive rosarum
 Vel hyacinthi
 Fundis odores.
 Grandia cete
 Gaudia vasta
 Saltibus edunt
 Incompostis,
 O *Venus* alma,
 Teque salutant,
 Et maris æquor
 Impete læto
 Sydera ad alta
 Naribus efflant.
 O mea vita,
 Ocyus adsis,
 Molle latusque
 Littore fulta,
 Prospice mecum
 Colle propinquo
 Subsistentes

Lanigerarum
 Ubra circum
 Molliter agnas ;
 Pendula lino
 Et tibi dextram
 Armet arundo ;
 Hamus aduncus
 Fluctuet unda :
 Mox genus ecce
 Omne natantum
 (Squammea pubes
 Ex latebrosis
 Advena fundis)
 Præpete pinnâ
 Trans maris æquor
 Ultro requirit
 Humida nostræ
 Lina puellæ ;
 Crine madentes
 Et tibi fundent
Naiades udæ
 Divite dextrâ,
 Mille colorum
 Munera conchas,
 Sanguine multo
 Tincta coralla,
 Gurgitis imi
 Splendida dona,
Doridos almæ
 Læve tributum.

This eclogue, which on account of its excellence is here inserted, was communicated by a learned friend, to the editor of this work ; but it does not occur in any of the editions of Metastasio's works.

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